

## PHY1600S - Effective Communication for Physicists.

### Assignment 8

Choose a topic about science or scientists, education or educators, that has generated controversy.

I list a few below to give you the idea, but **please choose any other topic that interests you.**

Start with a clear, concise title, followed by your name. Introduce the topic in your opening paragraph. In the next two paragraphs, state the arguments on one side, then those on the other side; be as objective as you can in this section.. Conclude with a paragraph that makes clear which side of the argument you favour. Clarity and brevity should be your goals, and 600 words is your absolute limit. As usual, the medium is more important than the message!

#### *Some Possible Topics.*

- A. Canada's role in combating global warming – is it sensible, is it enough?
- B. The moral responsibility of the scientists of the Manhattan Project who successfully produced the first atomic bomb.
- C. Edward Teller – hero or villain?
- D. Society funds the sciences more than the humanities; is that appropriate?
- E. The ethics of cloning OR Stem Cell research.
- G. Nuclear Power – a necessary evil?
- H. Evolution vs. Intelligent Design
- I. Increasingly, research grants in the physical sciences are being guided towards applied rather than 'curiosity' research. Does this best serve society's interests?
- J. Genetically modified foods – a blessing or a curse?
- K. Is global warming anthropogenic?
- L. Wind power is not a useful contributor to the reduction of greenhouse gases.
- M. Subways vs. LRTs in Toronto?

*The internet is a rich source of material on all of these topics. Consistent with our interest in this course, spend more time writing beautifully than researching exhaustively!*