

Activity 1: Botulinum Toxin Use and Abuse

Assignment 2: Structured Class Discussion

Scientific discoveries are made when scientists ask questions, seek answers and establish collaboration with other scientists and even non-scientists. Science is also often an incremental process that can be influenced by a number of societal factors. The articles below trace how the interplay among individuals in basic science, law, business, society, and medicine has shaped the course of the use of the toxin and the direction of scientific research, both public and private. This assignment also hopes that sharing your summaries and questions with one another will stimulate your curiosity for further investigation.

Instructions

Day 1:

1. You will be assigned to a small group.
2. Each small group of students will be assigned one of the news stories from the "Botulinum Toxin Use and Abuse" News Stories list. Each article examines either scientific or social issues related to botulinum toxin use, but no one article contains the whole story.
3. Outside of class each member of the group should read the article, take notes, and address these questions for discussion:
 - What did you learn from reading this article?
 - What questions are left unclear or ambiguous in this article?
 - What additional questions do you have about this neurotoxin?

Day 2:

4. During class, you will assemble into your small groups and discuss your answers for 15 minutes. Bring your notes and the original article to facilitate your discussion.
5. The small group will prioritize the answers to the questions and prepare to share these with the class. The group should assign one person as the reporter for the group.
6. For the remainder of the time, the class will hold a structured discussion.
 - The first group will present only ONE answer to each of the questions for discussion distributed on day 1.
 - The remaining groups will then determine if they can respond to any of the questions remaining from the first group.
 - From the groups that can respond to these questions, one will be selected.
 - This group will share their answers to the first group's questions and then present the remaining new questions they have identified for discussion.
 - The cycle of discussion then repeats itself until all of the groups have had a chance to contribute.