

Article describing recent research in a field of your choice  
Written for *Scientific American*

Imagine that the editors of *Scientific American* have contacted you and asked you to bring their readers up to date on research on a major public health topic. The magazine published an article on this topic some time ago, but a lot has happened in the intervening years. The editors are hoping for an article that is both engaging and enlightening.

They know that you have expressed interest in this topic and that you may have personal reasons for pursuing it, so they are willing to give you some latitude in defining the focus for your article. As long as you are able to accomplish your basic mission—to provide an update on recent research—they are open to different approaches.

The first version of the article should be at least 2000 words long and will include citations. The final version should be between 2100 and 2400 words long. Both versions should include a separate bibliography, which will be available online for *Scientific American* readers. As is typical of *Scientific American* articles, the final version of your article will not include any form of citation.

This is your chance to educate readers on a vital topic. Help them understand its significance. Make it lively and informative. Highlight the roles of key researchers. Explain technical terms. Double-check your data; the editors do not want any embarrassing mail from readers.

First Version, due Session 17

The **first version** of your *Scientific American* update will look different from the final version in a couple of ways. It should include MLA in-text source citations, even if you mention the source in the preceding sentence. It should also include a status report. Do not hand in your SA update without a final source list!

As usual, your first version should be accompanied by a letter to your readers.

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