

## Article Response Assignment Description

Read an article that relates to each unit of study. This includes a summary (including author, date of publication and publication source), connection to current or prior study, personal or other connection, and questions.

Sources for articles: New York Times, Scientific American, Discover or other comparable source. Articles must have been published in the past year.

### Article Response Rubric

	<b>0</b>	<b>Partially Proficient 60-75%</b>	<b>Proficient 85%</b>	<b>Proficient w/Distinction 95-100%</b>
<b>Content Summary</b> “I learned that...”	Missing	Content lacks detail, is over generalized, and/or missing. <i>Ex. “There are not effective drugs for people with MS.”</i>	The content of the article is summarized completely	The content summary is particularly descriptive or well written
<b>Connection to Current or Prior Study</b> “This connects to...”	Missing	Connection lacks accuracy or detail <i>Ex. “This connects to cells and human body.”</i>	Accurately connects article contents to current or prior study	Theme connection is insightful, descriptive
<b>Personal Connection</b> “This reminds me of...”	Missing	Personal/current events connection lacks description & detail <i>Ex. “This reminds me of someone I know with MS”</i>	Describes personal and/or current events connection	Personal connection is insightful and/or empathic
<b>Questions</b>	Missing	Questions may be sincere, but lack follow-up. <i>Ex. “How do you get MS?”</i>	Questions relate to content and include follow-up. <i>Ex. “What causes your immune system to attack your neurons? <u>Is it related to diet, genetic mutations or chemical exposure?</u>”</i>	Questions relate to content, include follow-up and attempt to answer them. <i>See example.</i>
<b>Bibliographical Information</b>	Missing	Biographical information incomplete or not formatted correctly	Biographical information in correct APA format	

## EXAMPLE Article Response—Proficient with Distinction

This underlined sentences are what made this score 95-100%. Otherwise, this would have scored 85%

Katy Chabot  
AP Biology  
January 11, 2012

### The Connections Between MS, Cells and the Immune System

In “New Drugs Raise Hope for Patients with M.S.” (2011), Tarken describes the painful unpredictability of living with multiple sclerosis (M.S). M.S. is a disease where the body’s immune system attacks neurons in the brain and spinal cord and destroys the myelin sheath that insulates the neurons. This causes patients to suffer from a variety of ailments including the loss of the ability to walk, see or control their bladder. At first, this occurs as “attacks” that are temporary—that is, patients recover the ability to walk or see. In the long run, people with MS suffer permanent damage. Until recently, the available drugs to treat the disease were general—they suppressed the immune system which in turn, suppressed the destruction of the myelin sheath. New drugs are specific—they target specific molecules that affect the disease. One drug, Gilenya, works by trapping lymphocytes in lymph nodes, thereby preventing them from getting to the brain where they would destroy the myelin sheath of the neurons. The benefits to these new drugs are that they have a greater rate of reducing relapses. However, they come with risks of infection and side effects.

This article connects to our studies on cells as well as our prior work on human systems. The body systems are interconnected. In this case, the immune system is attacking the nervous system. The result is that the nervous system can’t communicate with the musculoskeletal system which results in the loss of motor control. It is scary and fascinating to see how these systems all rely on each other to function properly. This is all working at or below the cellular level. The active players in M.S. are all cells: immune system cells, nerve cells and muscle cells. The neurons can’t function properly because part of their cell structure has been compromised.

This reminds me of the people I know who live with M.S. It must be so challenging to have a disease that is so unpredictable and debilitating. I can’t imagine walking one day and not knowing if I would be able to get out of bed the next day. I wonder what factors cause people to develop M.S. What causes the body to develop an autoimmune condition and attack itself? I wonder if is related to exposure to chemicals in our environment or food supply? Has anyone studied the links between chemical exposures and MS? My neighbor growing up was a “chemical sniffer” for a corporation. He had a particularly keen sense of smell and spent his working life smelling chemical compounds to determine their effectiveness. Late in life he developed MS. I have always wondered if it is connected to his work.

Tarken, L. (2011, December 26). New Drugs Raise Hope for Patients with M.S. *New York Times*. New York, NY. Retrieved January 10, 2011 from <http://www.nytimes.com>