

The Texas legislature is currently debating the merits of House Bill HR 1599 within the senate. The bill proposes labeling GMOs for consumption.

HR 1599: The FDA may require a GMO food to have a label that informs consumers of a material difference between the GMO food and a comparable food if the disclosure is necessary to protect public health and safety or to prevent the label from being false or misleading. The use of a GMO does not, by itself, constitute a material difference.

But what exactly is a GMO?!?!? Are they good?!?! Bad?!?!?

First, do some research. Choose at least 3 of the resources below and read/watch to learn more.

Infographic <https://visualismdotorg.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/gmo-infographic-v2-10-25-2012.png>

Bill Nye GMO Video https://youtu.be/8z_CqyB1dQ

Creating your own GMO: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/harvest/engineer/transgen.html>

PBS GMO videos: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/harvest/viewpoints/>

GMO Article: <http://www.nature.com/scitable/topicpage/genetically-modified-organisms-gmos-transgenic-crops-and-732>

For each resource, write down the name of the resource, Ex. "Bill Nye GMO Video" and write 3 things you learned. Use complete sentences. Instead of writing "plants" write "I learned some plants that are grown for food are genetically modified." Try to balance your research and find some benefits of GMOs along with some concerns about them. (60 points, 20 for each resource.)

Next, choose a side. Do you support or oppose the creation of genetically modified organisms? If GMOs are created, should there be any special labeling on these products to alert consumers?

Write a persuasive letter to your senator, Jane Nelson, presenting a well-developed, data supported argument to support your position. Include and explain at least 3 facts you found in your research. (40 points, see rubric below)

	Good	Fair	Poor
Audience (Senator)	Language of letter is appropriate to purpose (5 points)	Language of letter is not always appropriate to purpose (1-3)	Language of letter is frequently not appropriate to purpose (0)
Research Facts	Three facts from research are given (11-15 points)	At least two facts from research are given (6-10 points)	One or no facts from research are given (0-5 points)
Explanation/Elaboration	All three facts are explained/elaborated upon (11-15)	Only one or two facts are explained/elaborated upon (6-10)	Facts are not explained/elaborated upon (0-5)
Resources	Resources are given for each of the three facts (5 points)	Resources are given for one or two facts (1-3 points)	Resources are not given for the facts (0 points)