



Eben - Developing GMO literacy in Year 4-7 students

What was your goal and what did you achieve?

For my project I did GMOs - genetically modified organisms - the way I presented this was I gathered information on the topic and then I presented it to the Yr 4-7 classes then got a response sheet back and looked at the results. The results I got back was that most people believe this technology to be a high-risk high-reward type deal where lots of things could go wrong and potentially cause lots of damage that is undoable but it could also reverse some of the problems that humans have caused.

This technology it's definitely upcoming and it will be used in the future, so I just wanted to inform the top four classes of an upcoming technology that will in fact be used and could be potentially dangerous and they need to develop some kind of opinion on the technology before it becomes a problem.

Who else did you work with?

Most of all I worked with my principal Miss Creek and one of the office ladies Miss Sharkey. They

helped me a lot with these kinds of things and without them none of this would have been possible. We figured that it'd be smarter to have the top four classes come together so we get a wider spread of information but unfortunately we were lacking a bit of time and we weren't able to get the four classes to meet together yet, with term four being hectic and all that it may not happen. I asked the four classes I interviewed to grab an opinion sheet and they would take it home and then fill it out with their parents and they'd talk about what they thought about the topic GMOs.

Biggest success?

Probably the biggest success was definitely the presentation - three out of four classes were very interested and were contributing and asking questions and getting curious about the topic so the presentation itself when I presented the information to the Yr 4-7 classes that was probably my biggest success which then made me go away with the most curiosity and thirst for knowledge. With the fourth class they'd recently been doing homework and other stuff so a lot of them were mostly focusing on that and weren't listening

or they didn't quite understand, I wasn't clear enough, one of those things or maybe they just weren't interested.

What did you enjoy most?

Definitely the research and finding out new things about this technology because I watched one video on a channel off of YouTube and it immediately sparked an interest of what is this? how can it be used? what is it for? is it upcoming or is it old news? and that's essentially what sparked me towards doing a project on GMOs instead of nuclear energy or slaughterhouses.

Your advice to other students?

To start off try and stay ahead of time cause I came in by a hair, I managed to get everything done, so time management is number one. Number two would be to try and follow people up and get that discussion going again and get more opinion sheets, heading out and talking to parents about it and make more people aware of the upcoming technology. We did have an action plan although it did have to be slightly changed.

This case study was transcribed from an interview. These are Eben's words and opinions.

