AP Biology

Mr. Khan

**Writing prompts for *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks***

**Due August 25, 2024 11:59pm to Canvas**

*(Will count as a 50 pt lab grade for the 1st quarter)*

***Read carefully:*** *Select* ***one*** *of the four Writing Prompts and write a paper that is worthy of the grade you hope to receive  (min 3 pages no more than 5).  Make strong, well-researched arguments. You must use at least 2 outside  sources not counting the book.  Must be double-spaced in 12 pt. font.  Cite your sources properly at the end of the paper. PLEASE break your points and arguments into tightly organized paragraphs.*

1. There is often a tension between religious faith and science. Explore the importance of      both religious faith and scientific understanding in the lives of the Lacks family.

• How does religious faith help frame the Lacks family response to, and interpretation of, the scientific information they receive about HeLa?

• How does Skloot’s attitude toward the relationship between religious faith and science  evolve as a result of her relationship with the Lacks family?

• What are some other scientific revolutions that have clashed with religious beliefs?  Include  at least two more examples besides the issues discussed in the book and discuss the position  of the Catholic Church on these scientific issues?

• Write a summary paragraph pulling together the Lacks’ reconciliation of their faith beliefs  with the advances in science Henrietta’s cells have made and the two issues you have  identified from our Catholic faith beliefs with the ideas & medical breakthroughs they have  made.

2. Using the book as a guide, describe the process of scientific inquiry. Examine the often      contradictory forces of ***altruism and profit*** as they influenced research related to HeLa.

• What are the risks and benefits of allowing profit to guide research?

• What are the obstacles involved with conducting research purely for altruistic reasons?

• Research another instance of altruism vs. profit, i.e., the development of a vaccine for Ebola.  When did it start? What happened? (Before the recent outbreak)

3. After getting out of jail, Zakariyya Rahman participated in a number of research studies     in exchange for monetary compensation. Research the laws and the ethical debate over     offering payment in exchange for participation in scientific studies, or for the donation of blood, eggs, sperm, or other biological materials.

• Do people have a right to “sell” their body, tissues, or organs if they wish?

• What ethical dilemmas could result from financially compensating “donors” and research  participants?

• At what point could compensation become coercive?

• Make an argument for whether or not the Lacks family should be financially compensated  for Henrietta’s cells.  Relate this issue to those raised in the book.

4. What are the Lacks family’s legal rights in relation to Henrietta’s cells?

• Is there a possible way that they can receive royalties from the use of her cells?

 • Study recent legal disputes over the collection and use of tissue samples. Specific cases to  consider include: (do minimum of two)

o The lawsuit filed by the Havasupai tribe against Arizona State University,

o The lawsuit filed by Texas parents over the collection of blood samples from their newborn children, and

o The controversy over the University of California at Berkeley’s request that  incoming freshmen submit DNA samples.

o Others that you find are applicable to this case.

• Given your research, make a clear argument for whether or not the Lacks family should  receive royalties for Henrietta’s cells.