

V. Forensics

Biotech tools can identify molecular “fingerprints” to identify species, trace ancestral lineages, establish relationships or identify specific individuals.

Possible topics for research include: Bioterrorism; Paternity/Relationship Testing; Crime Scene Analysis; DNA Fingerprinting; CODIS Database/Privacy Issues; Wildlife Management; etc...

Note: Forensic investigative techniques, such as dusting for actual fingerprints on objects and matching dental impressions or records are not appropriate topics, as they do not deal with the use of DNA or cellular materials to identify individuals.

Below, we have provided a few reputable resources to get your project started. Please do not plagiarize from these sources, but put the information in your own words. As you write the text for each section of your poster, indicate the references used in that section by using an “in text” citation (see the contest directions for more information on using references correctly). In addition to the resources provided, we encourage all contestants to seek out other scientifically reliable sources of information, media images, and artistic elements in building the Biotech Expo poster entries.

Online Resources on Forensics:

Human Genome Project Information: DNA Forensics

http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/elsi/forensics.shtml

National Association of Biology Teachers—Ethics Resources

<http://www.nabt.org/sites/S1/index.php?p=207>

Science Daily

http://www.sciencedaily.com/news/plants_animals/biotechnology/

Note: Opinions and philosophies expressed on the above websites are not necessarily those of our program and should be viewed as part of the larger societal discussion surrounding biotechnology. Use of these specific online resources is not required.

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