Assignment: Arguments for and against conducting research with embryonic stem cells

Due Date: Friday, September 11th, at the beginning of class

Learning Objective: Practice gathering information and evidence about the main arguments for both sides of a biological controversy—in this case, embryonic stem cells. Effectively communicate both points of view in a written summary that is strong (evidence-supported), convincing, objective, and unbiased (doesn't give disproportionate weight to one side over the other).

Description:
Introduction: Address the following 4 questions: What are "stem cells"? What unique properties do they have compared to other cells? What are *embryonic* stem cells? From where do embryonic stem cells come?

Argument in Favor: Summarize 2 main points used in the argument FOR studying and conducting research with embryonic stem cells. In other words, why should we study and conduct research with embryonic stem cells?

Argument in Opposition: Summarize 2 main points used in the argument AGAINST studying and conducting research with embryonic stem cells. In other words, why shouldn't we study and conduct research with embryonic stem cells?

Details:
The length should be about 600-750 words

Any aspects may be considered such as benefits, risks, advantages, disadvantages, success rate, access, availability, costs, ethics, politics, or others. You must substantiate your arguments with facts and evidence where appropriate. Imagine that you are going to debate this issue in person—your arguments (for *and* against) need to be strong and convincing! What are the "selling points" for each side of the controversy?

Your arguments FOR stem cell research may be unrelated to your arguments AGAINST their use—it is ok to choose different arguments.

You must cite at least 2 sources that helped you prepare your arguments and each should be a reliable and credible source. Place citations at the end of the document. The following website may help you generate appropriately-formatted APA citations: http://www.citationmachine.net/

Points Break-down:
Intro: 8 points
Arguments For: 10 points
Arguments Against: 10 points