



# SHOULD WE EDIT THE GENOME?

WHEN, WHY, AND HOW MUCH?

You are a group of citizens brought together to advise the city council on a research project at a local university. Scientists at the university have developed a new application using CRISPR. The city council is interested in what local citizens think about the future use of this technology. Keep in mind that this issue will look different at the city, state, national, and international levels.



## STEP 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

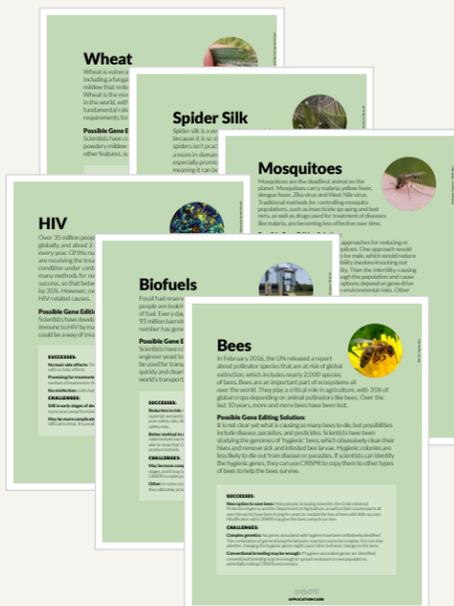
1 page, 10 minutes

Introduce yourselves. Share your name and your connection to the topic. Then take turns reading the background information aloud to the group.

## STEP 2: APPLICATION CARDS

6 cards, 15 minutes

CRISPR is being used for a wide variety of applications. Take turns reading the front sides of the application cards aloud to get a sense of their range.



## STEP 3: CHOOSE AN APPLICATION

5 minutes

Choose one of the applications to discuss in more depth. Flip that application card over to read more details about your chosen application.

## STEP 4: DISCUSS AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION

35 minutes

Flip to the other side of this paper to write your recommendation as a group. City council is specifically interested in the answers to the following questions as the technology gets more advanced:

1. Would you like this technology to be used? If so, how? If not, why not?

- Restricted to research use? Commercialized? Used in clinical applications, if applicable?
- What benefits do you hope will result from the use of this technology?
- What concerns do you have about its use? What are the risks?

2. Should the university bring this technology to market/the world? If so, how?

Generally, filing a patent is the first step whether an inventor wants to charge for the use of their discovery or allow people to use it freely.

- Charge people who want to use it? If so, should the price be low or high?
- Or allow people to use it freely? If so, should they insist on some restrictions on profits for companies who make products that use it?

3. What restrictions, if any, would you like to see implemented to maximize the benefits and safety of editing this genome? Who should regulate/oversee the use of this technology?

- The scientists themselves? The city council? The state government? The federal government or a federal agency (e.g. FDA)?

## STEP 5: REPORT OUT

10 minutes

Each group presents its recommendation in 2 minutes or less. Then participants can comment on each other's plans.

**YOUR APPLICATION:**

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 • What benefits do you hope will result from the use of this technology?  
 • What concerns do you have about its use? What are the risks?

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Present your application!

10 minutes

**EDIT THE GENOME?**

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If you have time, consider this:

How would your answers change if it were a company developing this technology rather than a university?