

IELTS Writing Task 2 Lesson #10

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Genetic engineering for both medical and agricultural purposes is causing an increasing amount of controversy.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of genetic engineering and explain your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

SAMPLE ANSWER

New advances in scientific technology have allowed scientists to develop the means to change the biological make-up of living organisms to engineer agricultural and medicinal products. Clearly there are both advantages and disadvantages to genetic engineering and I personally believe that genetic modification should be used to adapt medicinal products, but not agricultural products.

There are many ethical and health issues associated with genetic engineering, and it is a complex and highly controversial issue. I believe that genetic engineering is beneficial when used to develop new medicines or scientific technology that helps prolong people's lives. For example, if a person is dying of an incurable disease and genetic engineering technology can provide a new medicine or treatment that will keep that person alive and well for several more years, than I believe it should be used. However, I believe that techniques like cloning are unethical and potentially dangerous because the effects of these techniques are unknown and largely unnecessary.

Genetic engineering has also been used to change the biological make-up of agricultural products. For example, people prefer to buy bananas that are bright yellow because they look fresh and healthy. Naturally grown, organic bananas, however, are not perfectly yellow, but often have naturally occurring brown spots caused by sugar. Scientists have developed methods of changing the genes of bananas to prevent them from turning brown. This sort of genetic engineering is unnecessary in my opinion, and may subject people to unnecessary risks since it has not yet been determined what kinds of health risks the genetic changes might cause.

In conclusion, genetic modification should be used for necessary and useful purposes like saving lives, not for rearranging genes to change the appearance of agricultural products, a potentially dangerous and unnecessary procedure.