## UGS 303- Research Methods Dr. Stuart Reichler





## Ideas for using Geoengineering to lessen the impacts of Global Climate Change



### Global area planted with GM crops



And http://www.monsanto.com.au/ images/global area chart.gif

## Should we explore/colonize space?





Super Panavision® and Metrocolor

#### What is the best search engine?



### Robots?



## How much autonomy should our computer networks have?



Hemdale Presents a Pacific Western Production of a James Cameron Film Amold Schwarzenegger "The Terminator" Michael Biehn, Linda Hamilton and Paul Winfield Make-Up Effects By Stan Winston · Executive Producers John Daly and Derek Gibson Written by James Cameron with Gale Anne Hurd · Produced by Gale Anne Hurd An **ORION** PICTURES Release Directed by James Cameron - Prints by DeLuxe ® O1994 Clement 34.4 Greenberg Enderschaft All rights rearved

#### Trends in Nondefense R&D by Function, FY 1953-2009 outlays for the conduct of R&D, billions of constant FY 2008 dollars



Source: AAAS, based on OMB Historical Tables in *Budget of the United States* Government FY 2009. Constant dollar conversions based on GDP deflators. FY 2009 is the President's request. Note: Some Energy programs shifted to General Science beginning in FY 1998. FEB. '08 © 2008 AAAS



<u>Date</u>	<u>Class</u>	Lab
July 12	Introduction and Strong Inference	no lab
14	What is an inquiry?	Database Searches, Strong Inference, Termites
19	Statistics	Inquiry 1 Proposals due
21	Statistics, Lab Safety and Inquiry 2	Statistics Practice
26	Peer Review and Authorship	Inquiry 1 Reports and Presentations
28	Ethics: Using Animals and People in Research	Inquiry 2 Proposals due
Aug. 2	The Art of Presenting and Writing	Ethics Discussion
4	Funding Research and Patents	Peer Review
9	What happens after graduation?	What is success?
Aug. 11	University Research (Who are all these people?), and Why do we not solve more problems?	Inquiry 2 Reports and Presentations

## Most classes...





## This class...





## **Getting Answers:**

- •Start with a question.
  - -For example:
- How? Why? When? Where? Etc?

•How do we get answers? -Strong Inference presents one method (article on webpage)





Cause of Peptic Ulcers: Overabundance of stomach acid due to •Stress •Diet •Anxiety

licineNet, Inc.



Cause of Peptic Ulcers: Overabundance of stomach acid due to •Stress •Diet •Anxiety

Treatment: •Antacids U.S. bought \$4.4 billion in 1992

•Tranquilizers







*H. pylori* isthe cause of80% ofpeptic ulcers



The obvious or accepted answer was not the correct answer...

Without alternative ideas, the answer would not have been found.

## Strong Inference

# Knowledge is gained by eliminating incorrect ideas.

## Disproof is more reliable than proof.

Where does the matter come from for plants to grow?

Matter can not normally be created or destroyed, only moved from one place to another.



Aristotle (~2,300 y.a.): Plants gain mass by taking it from the soil.

Supporting Evidence:

- •Plants need soil to grow.
- •If roots are removed, plants die.
- •After several years of cultivation, soil loses its ability to support plant growth.

#### Johann Baptista van Helmont did a simple experiment in the early 1600's



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## What is the major difference between these two approaches to science?

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Johann Baptista van Helmont in 1600's



Strong Inference is a method for looking at scientific problems by trying to <u>disprove hypotheses</u> and accepting the hypotheses that can not be disproved. Using Strong Inference entails following these rules (from an article by John Platt, 1964):

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3. Carry out the experiments to get reliable results.

## What experimental errors might have been made?

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- 3. Carry out the experiments to get reliable results.
- 4. Repeat. Refine hypotheses.

- Webpage and Blackboard fully functional this afternoon
- Strong Inference article on webpage
- •Get notebook, bound
- •Next: Details about Inquiries, Practicing Strong Inference, Academic Literature