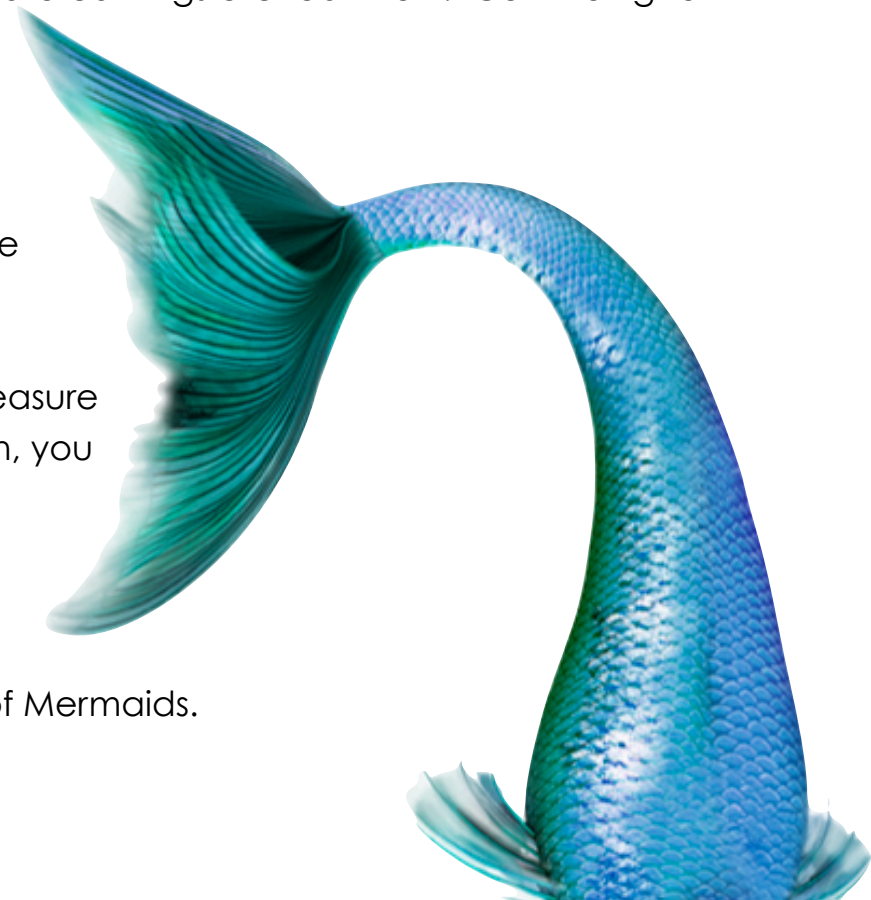


# *Escaping the underwater* **MERMAID CITY**

You have always believed that mermaids are real. Recently, scouring through library archives you stumbled upon evidence indicating the location of the long-lost City of Mermaids. You are now sailing through the sea in search of the fabled city, scanning the seabed with sophisticated sonar equipment. Incredibly, you discover an area with many irregularities that suggests there is a huge artificial construction below.

You anchor the boat and put on your scuba gear before dropping into the water. Descending to the bottom of the sea, you soon discover a massive underwater stone mound with intricate carvings etched into it. Continuing to search around the perimeter of the large mound, you eventually find a locked gate blocking entry into a cave heading into the heart of the stone hill. There are many rotating dials containing various letters by the door which appear to form some type of combination lock that you suspect will unlock the door. Curiously, there is also a treasure chest lying near the door.

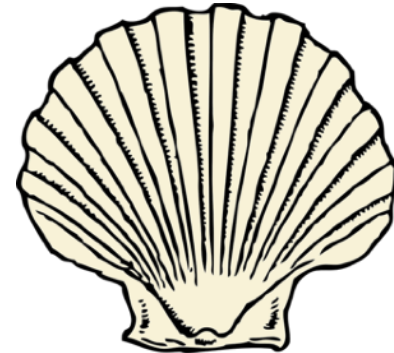
After considerable effort, you're able to attach large chains to the treasure chest which are tethered to a winch system on your ship above. Then, you manage to hoist the heavy chest up to the boat. You waste no time opening the treasure chest. Inside, you find many stone tablets with writing etched into them which appear to form some type of puzzle. Hopefully, if you can solve the puzzle, you will get clues as to how to open the ancient, locked door into the underground City of Mermaids.



FIRST, READ THE 3 ARGUMENTATIVE TEXTS THAT YOU SEE.  
NEXT, SORT THE QUOTE CARDS INTO THEIR CORRECT CATEGORIES.  
IN EACH GROUP, REARRANGE THE KEY LETTERS ON THE CARDS.  
YOU WILL FORM KEY WORDS IF YOU TRY REALLY HARD.  
TOGETHER, THESE WORDS FORM THE PASSPHRASE YOU NEED.  
THE ORDER IS THE SAME AS THESE CATEGORIES:

**CLAIMS, REASONS, EVIDENCE, COUNTERCLAIMS, REBUTTALS**

PASSPHRASE:



# HUMAN CLONING

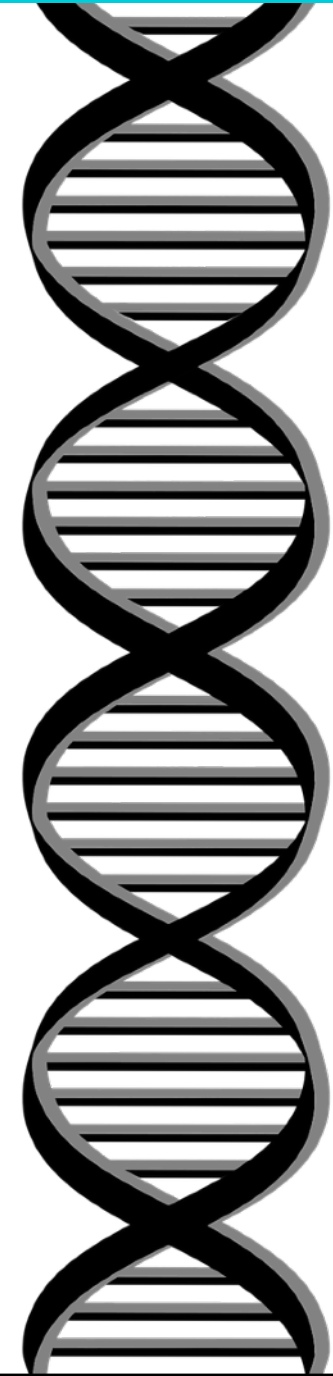
Human cloning means creating a genetically identical copy of another existing human being. Although other animals, including sheep, cows, cats, and dogs have already been cloned, human cloning is not believed to have occurred yet which is a positive. Human beings should never be cloned.

For starters, cloning is an imperfect, risky practice. Studies have shown that over 95% of attempts to clone animals end in failure. As an example, the first mammal to ever be cloned from an adult cell, a sheep named Dolly, came after 276 unsuccessful attempts. Even for clones that make it to the live-birth stage, most are often still defective with higher rates of cancer and genetic problems which leads to a shorter lifespan.

Another major concern is the potential for eugenics. Eugenics refers to creating a purportedly “better” species of humans by using selective breeding to promote desirable hereditary traits while eliminating genetics that can lead to disease or other undesirable traits. Eugenics has rightfully been discredited as a scientific theory given its potential and history of supporting racist and unethical practices as was seen during the Holocaust, for example. Beyond the potential for human rights’ abuses through eugenics, an increased presence of genetically identical clones would make the gene-pool dangerously thin and leave a more genetically homogenous population subject to the devastation of new viruses or diseases.

One argument often made to support the practice of human cloning is that clones could be made to replace the unexpected loss of a loved one. While this might seem like a strong argument, clones are born as babies and, although their genetic tissue would be identical, they would not resemble the loved one and would be a very different person altogether.

Currently, there are over 70 countries in the world who have banned human cloning. Nevertheless, human cloning in the future is a possibility given that the technology exists to accomplish the task. However, simply because something can be done does not mean that it should be done.



# FAST FOOD

Fast food is food that can be quickly made and served by a restaurant to customers. Typical types of fast food consumed in North America include, among other things, hamburgers, french fries, and fried chicken. Fast food should always contain warning labels to inform consumers of its negative health impacts.

Warnings should accompany fast food offerings because they contain high levels of ingredients known to cause health problems. For instance, most popular burgers in the fast-food industry contain trans-fat, a fat that should never be consumed because doctors have proven that too much of it can increase the risk of developing heart disease. Typically, fast food mains include a side of sodium-laden fries which, if consumed regularly, can lead to high blood pressure which studies have shown is linked to heart disease. Additionally, a review of studies about fast food and heart health done by *The Washington Post* concluded that people who consume fast food at least once a week are more likely to become obese. Obesity subjects people to a much higher level of developing heart disease and diabetes, two of the leading causes of death in the USA.

Fast food should also contain warning labels because other products that people consume that have negative health consequences already contain such warnings. A recent Australian study published in *BMC Medicine* concluded that 67% of smokers will die prematurely from smoking-related diseases. Consequently, the FDA requires warning labels on cigarette packages.

Some people suggest that fast food should not contain warning labels because, unlike products like cigarettes, it can be consumed in small quantities without negative health impacts or addictions. The reality is, however, that fast food contains certain ingredients like trans-fat which should never be consumed in any quantity whatsoever. Furthermore, more recent scientific evidence suggests that fast food stimulates a reward response in the brain which can make its consumption as addictive as some drugs.

Considering these potential dangers, all unhealthy fast food should, in fact, be labeled with appropriate health warnings.



# SELF-CHECKOUTS

Self-checkouts are a technology that allow customers at a retail store to purchase items without the assistance of store employees, often more quickly than with a traditional checkout option. Self-checkouts have many draw backs and should ultimately not be utilized.

From the retailer perspective, purchasing and installing a self-checkout represents a high up-front cost. For example, one study by MIT found that a standard four lane self-checkout system costs the vendor \$125 000 to purchase and install. This would likely result in small business owners passing on the cost to the customers.

Self-checkout systems also increase the likelihood of theft which directly impacts retailers and indirectly impacts honest customers. Theft can occur more easily at self-checkouts because of the reduced amount of employee supervision coupled with the dishonest customers' ability to swap price tags or not scan items at all. A recent study found that up to 4% of the total value of all merchandise that customers took through self-checkouts was not scanned. This is much higher than the rate through traditional checkouts and often leads to higher prices being charged to honest and capable customers through no fault of their own.

There are also many negative impacts that the self-checkout process places on customer satisfaction. Case studies have repeatedly revealed that many customers foster a negative perception of a company that utilizes self-checkouts because of the number of potential employees whose employment wasn't realized. Furthermore, customer satisfaction has been shown to decrease with the use of self-checkouts because of the lack of human interaction and the potential for technical issues that are not quickly resolved.

An argument which is often made in the defense of implementing self-checkouts is that the reduced labor cost would directly benefit the vendor and therefore indirectly benefit the customer. Obviously, the payroll expense would be diminished, but this is more than offset by the increase in the up-front technological cost, the additional costs of theft and customer user-error, and the loss of business due to customer dissatisfaction.

It will be interesting to see how automated merchandise technology will develop in the future, but retailers will want to keep this information in mind as they make their decision.



T

“Self-checkouts have many draw backs and should ultimately not be utilized.”

O

“Fast food should also contain warning labels because other products that people consume that have negative health consequences already contain such warnings.”

V

“The payroll expense would be diminished, but this is more than offset by the increase in the up-front technological cost, the additional costs of theft and customer user-error, and the loss of business due to customer dissatisfaction.”

A

“One argument often made to support the practice of human cloning is that clones could be made to replace the unexpected loss of a loved one.”

T

“While this might seem like a strong argument, clones are born as babies and, although their genetic tissue would be identical, they would not resemble the loved one and would be a very different person altogether.”

A

“The reality is, however, that fast food contains certain ingredients like trans-fat which should never be consumed in any quantity whatsoever.”

N

“There are many negative impacts that the self-checkout process places on customer satisfaction.”

S

“For instance, most popular burgers in the fast-food industry contain trans-fat, a fat that should never be consumed because doctors have proven that too much of it can increase the risk of developing heart disease.”

E

“Human beings should never be cloned.”

E

“Cloning is an imperfect, risky practice.”

'S

“Warnings should accompany fast food offerings because they contain high levels of ingredients known to cause health problems.”

E

“Some people suggest that fast food should not contain warning labels because, unlike products like cigarettes, it can be consumed in small quantities without negative health impacts or addictions.”

C

“A review of studies about fast food and heart health done by *The Washington Post* concluded that people who consume fast food at least once a week are more likely to become obese.”

E

“Even for clones that make it to the live-birth stage, most are often still defective with higher rates of cancer and genetic problems which leads to a shorter lifespan.”

S

“Studies have shown that over 95% of attempts to clone animals end in failure.”

E

“Theft can occur more easily at self-checkouts because of the reduced amount of employee supervision coupled with the dishonest customers' ability to swap price tags or not scan items at all.”

H

"Fast food should always contain warning labels to inform consumers of its negative health impacts."

A

"Purchasing and installing a self-checkout represents a high up-front cost."

S

"Furthermore, more recent scientific evidence suggests that fast food stimulates a reward response in the brain which can make its consumption as addictive as some drugs."

R

"Customer satisfaction has been shown to decrease with the use of self-checkouts because of the lack of human interaction and the potential for technical issues that are not quickly resolved."

C

"Another major concern [of cloning] is the potential for eugenics."

R

"An argument which is often made in the defense of implementing self-checkouts is that the reduced labor cost would directly benefit the vendor and therefore indirectly benefit the customer."

T

"One study by MIT found that a standard four lane self-checkout system costs the vendor \$125 000 to purchase and install."

## CLAIMS

**WORD:**

## REASONS

**WORD:**



## EVIDENCE

**WORD:**

## COUNTERCLAIMS

**WORD:**

# REBUTTALS

**WORD:**

# HUMAN CLONING

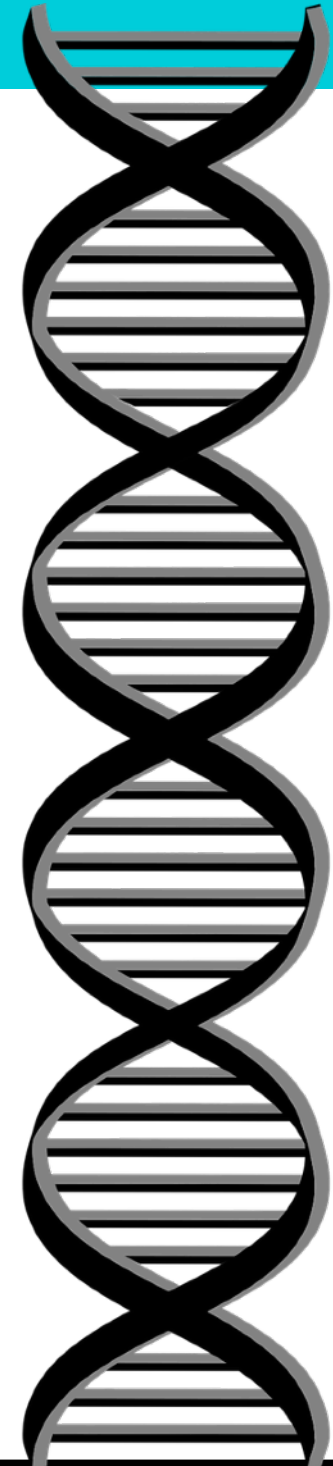
Human cloning means creating a genetically identical copy of another existing human being. Although other animals, including sheep, cows, cats, and dogs have already been cloned, human cloning is not believed to have occurred yet which is a positive. Human beings should never be cloned. **(CLAIM)**

For starters, cloning is an imperfect, risky practice. **(REASON)** Studies have shown that over 95% of attempts to clone animals end in failure. **(EVIDENCE)** As an example, the first mammal to ever be cloned from an adult cell, a sheep named Dolly, came after 276 unsuccessful attempts. **(EVIDENCE)** Even for clones that make it to the live-birth stage, most are often still defective with higher rates of cancer and genetic problems which leads to a shorter lifespan. **(EVIDENCE)**

Another major concern is the potential for eugenics. **(REASON)** Eugenics refers to creating a purportedly “better” species of humans by using selective breeding to promote desirable hereditary traits while eliminating genetics that can lead to disease or other undesirable traits. Eugenics has rightfully been discredited as a scientific theory given its potential and history of supporting racist and unethical practices as was seen during the Holocaust, for example. **(EVIDENCE)** Beyond the potential for human rights’ abuses through eugenics, an increased presence of genetically identical clones would make the gene-pool dangerously thin and leave a more genetically homogenous population subject to the devastation of new viruses or diseases. **(EVIDENCE)**

One argument often made to support the practice of human cloning is that clones could be made to replace the unexpected loss of a loved one. **(COUNTER)** While this might seem like a strong argument, clones are born as babies and, although their genetic tissue would be identical, they would not resemble the loved one and would be a very different person altogether. **(REBUTTAL)**

Currently, there are over 70 countries in the world who have banned human cloning. Nevertheless, human cloning in the future is a possibility given that the technology exists to accomplish the task. However, simply because something can be done does not mean that it should be done.



# FAST FOOD

Fast food is food that can be quickly made and served by a restaurant to customers. Typical types of fast food consumed in North America include, among other things, hamburgers, french fries, and fried chicken. Fast food should always contain warning labels to inform consumers of its negative health impacts. **(CLAIM)**

Warnings should accompany fast food offerings because they contain high levels of ingredients known to cause health problems. **(REASON)** For instance, most popular burgers in the fast-food industry contain trans-fat, a fat that should never be consumed because doctors have proven that too much of it can increase the risk of developing heart disease. **(EVIDENCE)** Typically, fast food mains include a side of sodium-laden fries which, if consumed regularly, can lead to high blood pressure which studies have shown is linked to heart disease. **(EVIDENCE)** Additionally, a review of studies about fast food and heart health done by *The Washington Post* concluded that people who consume fast food at least once a week are more likely to become obese. **(EVIDENCE)** Obesity subjects people to a much higher level of developing heart disease and diabetes, two of the leading causes of death in the USA. **(EVIDENCE)**

Fast food should also contain warning labels because other products that people consume that have negative health consequences already contain such warnings. **(REASON)** A recent Australian study published in *BMC Medicine* concluded that 67% of smokers will die prematurely from smoking-related diseases. Consequently, the FDA requires warning labels on cigarette packages. **(EVIDENCE)**

Some people suggest that fast food should not contain warning labels because, unlike products like cigarettes, it can be consumed in small quantities without negative health impacts or addictions. **(COUNTER)** The reality is, however, that fast food contains certain ingredients like trans-fat which should never be consumed in any quantity whatsoever. **(REBUTTAL)** Furthermore, more recent scientific evidence suggests that fast food stimulates a reward response in the brain which can make its consumption as addictive as some drugs. **(REBUTTAL)**

Considering these potential dangers, all unhealthy fast food should, in fact, be labeled with appropriate health warnings.



# SELF-CHECKOUTS

Self-checkouts are a technology that allow customers at a retail store to purchase items without the assistance of store employees, often more quickly than with a traditional checkout option. Self-checkouts have many draw backs and should ultimately not be utilized. **(CLAIM)**

From the retailer perspective, purchasing and installing a self-checkout represents a high up-front cost. **(REASON)** For example, one study by MIT found that a standard four lane self-checkout system costs the vendor \$125 000 to purchase and install. **(EVIDENCE)** This would likely result in small business owners passing on the cost to the customers.

Self-checkout systems also increase the likelihood of theft which directly impacts retailers and indirectly impacts honest customers. **(REASON)** Theft can occur more easily at self-checkouts because of the reduced amount of employee supervision coupled with the dishonest customers' ability to swap price tags or not scan items at all. **(EVIDENCE)** A recent study found that up to 4% of the total value of all merchandise that customers took through self-checkouts was not scanned. **(EVIDENCE)** This is much higher than the rate through traditional checkouts and often leads to higher prices being charged to honest and capable customers through no fault of their own. **(EVIDENCE)**

There are also many negative impacts that the self-checkout process places on customer satisfaction. **(REASON)** Case studies have repeatedly revealed that many customers foster a negative perception of a company that utilizes self-checkouts because of the number of potential employees whose employment wasn't realized. **(EVIDENCE)** Furthermore, customer satisfaction has been shown to decrease with the use of self-checkouts because of the lack of human interaction and the potential for technical issues that are not quickly resolved. **(EVIDENCE)**

An argument which is often made in the defense of implementing self-checkouts is that the reduced labor cost would directly benefit the vendor and therefore indirectly benefit the customer. **(COUNTER)** Obviously, the payroll expense would be diminished, but this is more than offset by the increase in the up-front technological cost, the additional costs of theft and customer user-error, and the loss of business due to customer dissatisfaction. **(REBUTTAL)**

It will be interesting to see how automated merchandise technology will develop in the future, but retailers will want to keep this information in mind as they make their decision.



## CLAIMS

T

"Self-checkouts have many draw backs and should ultimately not be utilized."

H

"Fast food should always contain warning labels to inform consumers of its negative health impacts."

E

"Human beings should never be cloned."

WORD:

THE

## REASONS

O

"Fast food should also contain warning labels because other products that people consume that have negative health consequences already contain such warnings."

A

"Purchasing and installing a self-checkout represents a high up-front cost."

C

"Another major concern [of cloning] is the potential for eugenics."

N

"There are many negative impacts that the self-checkout process places on customer satisfaction."

E

"Cloning is an imperfect, risky practice."

'S

"Warnings should accompany fast food offerings because they contain high levels of ingredients known to cause health problems."

WORD:

OCEAN'S

## EVIDENCE

S

"For instance, most popular burgers in the fast-food industry contain trans-fat, a fat that should never be consumed because doctors have proven that too much of it can increase the risk of developing heart disease."

R

"Customer satisfaction has been shown to decrease with the use of self-checkouts because of the lack of human interaction and the potential for technical issues that are not quickly resolved."

E

"Theft can occur more easily at self-checkouts because of the reduced amount of employee supervision coupled with the dishonest customers' ability to swap price tags or not scan items at all."

E

"Even for clones that make it to the live-birth stage, most are often still defective with higher rates of cancer and genetic problems which leads to a shorter lifespan."

C

"A review of studies about fast food and heart health done by *The Washington Post* conclude that people who consume fast food at least once a week are more likely to become obese."

T

"One study by MIT found that a standard four lane self-checkout system costs \$125 000 to purchase and install."

S

"Studies have shown that over 95% of attempts to clone animals end in failure."

WORD:

**SECRETS**

## COUNTERCLAIMS

A

"One argument often made to support the practice of human cloning is that clones could be made to replace the unexpected loss of a loved one."

R

"An argument which is often made in the defense of implementing self-checkouts is that the reduced labor cost would directly benefit the vendor and therefore indirectly benefit the customer."

E

"Some people suggest that fast food should not contain warning labels because, unlike products like cigarettes, it can be consumed in small quantities without negative health impacts or addictions."

WORD:

**ARE**

## REBUTTALS

V

"The payroll expense would be diminished, but this is more than offset by the increase in the up-front technological cost, the additional costs of theft and customer user-error, and the loss of business due to customer dissatisfaction."

T

"While this might seem like a strong argument, clones are born as babies and, although their genetic tissue would be identical, they would not resemble the loved one and would be a very different person altogether."

A

"The reality is, however, that fast food contains certain ingredients like trans-fat which should never be consumed in any quantity whatsoever."

S

"Furthermore, more recent scientific evidence suggests that fast food stimulates a reward response in the brain which can make its consumption as addictive as some drugs."

**WORD:**

**VAST**



FIRST, READ THE 3 ARGUMENTATIVE TEXTS THAT YOU SEE.  
NEXT, SORT THE QUOTE CARDS INTO THEIR CORRECT CATEGORIES.  
IN EACH GROUP, REARRANGE THE KEY LETTERS ON THE CARDS.  
YOU WILL FORM KEY WORDS IF YOU TRY REALLY HARD.  
TOGETHER, THESE WORDS FORM THE PASSPHRASE YOU NEED.  
THE ORDER IS THE SAME AS THESE CATEGORIES:

**CLAIMS, REASONS, EVIDENCE, COUNTERCLAIMS, REBUTTALS**

**PASSPHRASE:**

**THE OCEAN'S SECRETS ARE VAST**

