

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Science Reading Strategy Survey

Fenway High School Science

This year in science class you will be carrying out your own research project for Fenway's Science Fair. Some of you may also present at the Citywide Science Fair. As part of your project you will be reading about science and technology. Reading for scientific research is different from other kinds of reading and requires different skills. By filling out this survey you will help me to know which skills you already have and which we should work on during the year.

1. Do you read science or technology articles on your own (for example, in the Globe)?  Yes  No

If you answered **yes**, what science subjects do you like to read about?

If you answered **no**: If you were asked to find something to read (anything, not just science), what kind of reading would you most likely pick?

2. Read the following excerpt from a Boston Globe news story and then answer the questions. (The questions are about reading strategies – don't worry if you don't understand the article.)

Harvard scientists have created cells similar to human embryonic stem cells without destroying embryos, a major step toward someday possibly defusing the central objection to stem cell research.

The team showed that when a human skin cell was fused with an embryonic stem cell, the resulting hybrid looked and acted like the stem cell. The implications: It may eventually be possible to fashion tailor-made, genetically matched stem cells for patients using such a cell fusion technique, rather than by creating and then destroying a cloned embryo. That use of early embryos is the main sticking point for opponents of stem cell research.

- a) Suppose I were to ask you to paraphrase these paragraphs (in other words, write a short version in your own words). What would you do first to complete the assignment?
- b) The first sentence tells us that the scientists are from Harvard. Do you think that is important information? Why or why not?
- c) This article was in the News section (not the Science section) because stem cells are politically controversial (in other words, they're a hot political topic). What clues does the article give that this is a controversial topic?
- d) Suppose I were to ask you to take one side in a debate on stem cells. What other kinds of information would you need, other than this article to successfully complete the assignment?
3. Read the following encyclopedia entry and then answer the questions. (The questions are about reading strategies – don't worry if you don't understand the entry.)
- Carbohydrates** (literally hydrates of carbon) are chemical compounds which act as the primary biological means of storing or consuming energy; other forms being via fat and protein. Relatively complex carbohydrates are known as polysaccharides.
- a) Suppose your science fair project is on diet and nutrition and you need to define "carbohydrate." It would *not* be appropriate to just copy this

definition into your paper. Give as many reasons as you can think of why “copy and paste” is not appropriate.

b) Each of the following statements is a fact taken directly from the encyclopedia entry. Put a mark by the one you think is *best* for explaining what carbohydrates are.

- The literal meaning of “carbohydrates” is “hydrates of carbon.”
- Other forms of storing biological energy are fat and protein.
- There is more than one kind of carbohydrate. More complex ones are called “polysaccharides.”
- Carbohydrates are the main way living things store and use energy.
- Carbohydrates are chemical compounds.