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Doe 1

John Doe

Mr. Smith/Ms. Jones

World Geography/English Nine

11 March 2004

**Four line heading  
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I Do Not Like Cloned Eggs and Ham

“Any discovery that touches upon human creation is not simply a matter of scientific inquiry, it is a matter of morality and spirituality as well...Each human life is unique, born of a miracle that reaches beyond laboratory science,” stated former president Bill Clinton, making it illegal for federal money to be used in researching human cloning (qtd. in Human). The process of cloning involves taking the nucleus of a cell from an animal or plant and placing it in an unfertilized egg of the same species. This then develops into an exact genetic duplicate of the individual that gave the donor nucleus (Ethical). The idea of cloning has received both praise and ridicule since it became widely known with the introduction of Dolly, the cloned sheep, in 1997. Because diseases and starvation affect billions of people worldwide, cloning needs to be researched to solve these and other problems.

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Defining the Problem

In this century, humans will be faced with many dilemmas. As the world population increases enormously every day, people are looking for ways to get the most use out of the farmland that remains (New 16A). Also, diseases including Alzheimer's, cancer, diabetes, and heart disease kill two million people in the United States every year (Disease 229). Another problem is that many species of plants and animals are wiped out at the hands of humans due to habitat destruction (Goodman 15A). Twenty thousand species become extinct every year

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(Endangered). Scientists believe that the world is currently undergoing the greatest mass extinction of plants and animals since the dinosaurs were wiped out sixty-five million years ago (Endangered). Through cloning, these and other problems could be fixed.

No matter where on the earth a person may live, they will be affected by the aforementioned problems. With research projects such as ANDi, the rhesus monkey who had genes from a jellyfish placed into a strand of its DNA, scientists will someday be able to find ways to get rid of diabetes, Alzheimer's, and cancer at the genetic level (McCall 1A). Also, at places like Trans Ova, Iowa cows are being cloned to produce albumin which regulates the transfer of body fluids, treats burns, etc. (Cloned 4S). This would eliminate the constant demand for human plasma, which is always in short supply (4S).

By using genetically altered crops, food could be specifically made to be more nutritious and resistant to disease (New 16A). Also, they could be used to create plastics, fuels, and other products that would eliminate the need for harmful chemicals (16A). Finally, cloning could be used to bring back extinct animals, such as the Bucardo Mountain Goat from Spain, which just recently became extinct (Goodman 15A). This process has already been used to clone the Guar, a rare cow species from Asia (15A). Noah, a cloned Guar, died eighteen hours after birth, however (15A).

The process of cloning raises many objections, both from a moral and scientific standpoint. While cloning success stories such as Dolly the sheep are known worldwide, very few realize that only *two percent* of all cloned animals survive birth (Vogel). Also, scientists have discovered that Dolly the sheep has characteristics of her donor, who was six years old when the cell was removed from it (Ethical).

Another problem is that scientists think clones may inherit genetic damage that brings on premature aging or other disorders (Ethical). Dr. Ray Greek of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine denounced the idea that transplanting genes from one animal to another would help humans one day (McCall 1A). He said, “The odds are extremely against it. We have been doing to mice for twenty to thirty years what they have done with ANDi, and we have been singularly unsuccessful” (1A).

Also, no studies on genetically engineered foods have been performed to determine whether or not they produce negative long-term effects (Rose). Similarly, if all crops, livestock, or even humans were altered to be genetically alike, any single disease could entirely destroy an entire species (Clone).

Finally, many groups say that the cloning of humans would be ethically wrong (Human). They wonder if this clone would have a soul, seeing that it was not made by their deity (Human). These religious groups and many other people say that each person is unique, and cloning would take that individualism away.

### Evaluating Possible Solutions

There are several possible solutions to solve these delicate matters. The first solution would be to completely ban any form of cloning altogether. This would eliminate any moral objections from people or religious groups (Human). Also, the possibility of the commercialization of human cloning would not be a worry.

The second solution would be to allow all forms of cloning. With this, great strides could be made in solving problems like diseases, food shortages, pollution from chemicals, and the extinction of species. Cloning would also give an option to people who wish to have children,

but cannot use in vitro fertilization, a process where an egg is fertilized outside the female's body and then placed back inside the woman's body once the egg and sperm have combined (Human).

A third option would be to allow cloning, but with government restrictions. Research on cloning could be used to improve medicine and solve genetic disorders (McCall 1A). Cloning and genetic engineering could also be used to improve crops (New 16A). The cloning of humans would be severely restricted, seeing that there is much controversy, with good reason, surrounding the subject (Human).

Fourth, focus could be centered on supplying more relief and financial aid to Third World countries. Cloning would take a back seat, while rich countries like the U.S. could use their resources to attempt to solve the problems of starvation, overpopulation, pollution, et cetera.

### Defending the Best Solution

The third solution is the best one to be implemented. By allowing cloning, it could be improved upon and made better (Vogel). Doing this, the survival rate of cloned species would go up, increasing scientists' knowledge of cloning, which therefore would lead to greater scientific achievements in many fields (Vogel). The nutritional quality of crops could be improved, which would help solve the world's problem of starvation (New 16A). The diversity of crops would have to be protected to prevent disease from wiping out an entire species (Clone).

The first and second solutions have one fundamental flaw that is essentially the same. They both take the same problems to opposite extremes. If cloning were banned altogether, improvements in the quality of life could not be made. It is not right just to stop advancements in cloning because some people have objections (Human). Cloning can dramatically improve the

lives of people all around the world and needs to be further researched. With the second solution, it does enable scientific advancements to be made without restriction, but it could essentially allow any person to create a clone of himself or herself without anyone checking the purpose of it. The prospect of cloning humans with no scientific purpose seems ethically wrong (Human).

The fourth solution relies too heavily on efforts from industrial nations that have no guarantees. With the recent mapping of the human genome, cloning will make huge advances in the next hundred years (Boyd 1A). While financial aid, education, and relief efforts would work, researching cloning would bring results much sooner.

The continuation of cloning research will lead to great advancements in many fields this century. With the recent mapping of the human genome, knowledge will only exponentially increase. Projects like ANDi will help scientists and doctors cure diabetes, Alzheimer's, and cancer at the genetic level, saving many lives every year (McCall 1A). Cloning can help improve crops, as long as things don't get out of hand, and it is made sure that the diversity of plant varieties is protected (Clone). By improving crops genetically, more people can be better fed (New 16A).

The idea of cloning has two sides. One is where it is utilized to improve human lives and to understand humankind better. The other is one where cloning is used for the wrong reasons, such as commercial or recreational use. Creating human clones just for the fun of it is wrong, both from a scientific and ethical view. Because people have the power to do something, doesn't mean it should be done. Dwight D. Eisenhower said on his inauguration, "A people that values its privileges above its principles soon loses both" (qtd. in Robins).

**Works Cited,  
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Works Cited

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