

Research misconduct: Write and pass

In December 2005, Korean scientist Dr. Hwang Woo Suk confessed to mislabeling a photo in published research. His June 2005 article in *Science* contains a photo of a cell colony labeled as the 5th of 11 human stem cell lines he produced from cells taken from one of his patients. However, the same photo also appears in an October 2005 article in *The Biology of Reproduction* where he labeled it as an ordinary embryonic cell colony (a different kind of cell), and from a different source (a fertility clinic). After initially denying charges of falsifying data, Hwang finally admitted to the duplication, thereby strengthening critics' charges that Hwang never cloned adult human stem cells.

1. Do you believe Hwang's actions were ethically wrong? Why, or why not? Answer yes or no.

_____ Your answer is a *particular moral judgment*, or the *conclusion* of an ethical argument. Provide one *empirical* and one *normative* reason, or *premise*, to support your judgment.

Empirical claim (factual): _____

Normative claim (ethical principle): _____

Pass this paper to your partner - - - - - >>>>>

2. Most ethical arguments have *missing premises*. Identify a premise that must be added to the argument above in order to make it *valid* (that is, the conclusion follows from the premises).

Pass this paper back to your partner - - - - - >>>>

3. Working together, combine your responses with your partner's responses. Refine, edit, and replace, your premises to construct a single valid argument. Write it here.

4. Most ethical arguments contain at least one weak premise. With your partner, identify the weakest premise in your argument, and explain the grounds on which you might challenge it.