Helpful Hints for writing Science Literacy Response Papers

1) **Organization**- Try to be very clear when you are talking about the content of the article vs what you think are the implications of the article. Use one paragraph to briefly summarize the important results from the article, then use subsequent, separate paragraphs to discuss some of the potential side effects/implications that may follow from these results.

2) **Implication-vs-Result**- The definition of "implication" is something that is not explicitly stated, but something that may follow, you can think of it as a potential side effect. For example, if I tell you that I just ate 15 double cheeseburgers with peanut butter and pickles, you might theorize that one potential implication of my action is that I will be sick tomorrow. I might not be sick, but that potential implication (my sickness) logically follows. If I tell you that I had a coke on the side, that is not an implication, that is a fact of the matter. Be careful about distinguishing between the two in your paper, implications are things that you think might happen, discussing them is your fun time to think broadly be creative!

3) **Think broadly and deeply**--To get full credit you must discuss multiple, different implications. Think of it as being a detective, you need to talk to a lot of witnesses to get the full story. It is the same in science. Just talking to scientists who say "my research is awesome and will help a lot of people" is not the full story. Of course the scientists think their work is awesome! But the real story comes when you consider all the people who might be affected...Is this science useful for the government? Will it change normal daily life? What about legal issues, will there be potential problems with this new technology that could cause disputes? Will it cost a lot? Will this result change how we think about history, society, etc. Could it lead to a creation of a new invisibility cloak that would allow students to sneak out of class and go to Starbucks when the professor gets boring? You get the idea.

You must think of, and give specific examples of potential implications from at least three different viewpoints to get full credit on these papers. A specific example is not saying “This will create economic growth”. Rather a specific example is something like “If everyone ate 15 cheeseburgers a day, then there would be lots of jobs created in multiple industries, from beef farmers to packaging manufacturers, to skilled burger flippers at McDonalds”....etc.

Good luck!