

RESEARCH OUTLINE

Topic: Genetic Patenting: Is the Patenting of Genetic Material Ethically Correct?

- I. Introduction
 - A. Definition of a patent
 1. United States Patent and Trademark Office-requirements
 2. Is something which has been “discovered” patentable?
 - B. Pose questions about genetics and patenting
 1. Is it morally sound to hold patents over genetic material, animal or human.?
 2. What is the status of the (human) genome?
 3. What status does nature have once man alters it?
 - C. Thesis Statement: The debate over genetic patenting involves the careful consideration of several perspectives including those of the legal, scientific, biotechnical, and economical fields of study. After analyzing the conflicting opinions of the many different fields of study one may procure a more knowledgeable understanding on which to base a suitable moral framework for evaluating the righteousness of genetic patenting.
- II. Introduction to the topic of genetic patenting-in greater detail.
- III. Reasoning behind the use of genetic patenting

Ex. “Researchers can use funds generated from the patent to further research the field of study.”
- IV. Reasons why genetic patenting is inherently wrong

Ex. “A patent is only valid when protecting a new and innovative invention and not a discovery.”
- V. Different vantage points on the issue of genetic patenting => Each giving an argument supporting and refuting the use of genetic patenting
 - A. Legal perspective
 - B. Economical perspective
 - C. Science/ Biotechnological perspective-
 - D. Religious perspective- Can we claim ownership of something that is not ours, but God’s?
 - E. Ethical perspective- What would the various ethical frameworks say about genetic patenting?

- VI. Explanation of the current situation with genetic patenting laws in the US
 - A. What laws allow for genetic patenting and why?
 - B. What are the current requirements for genetic patenting? Give examples of court cases.
- VII. Personal opinion => To be formulated after all research is completed
- VIII. Conclusion

Patrick, this is a fine topic, and good outline, go for it.