Alternative Lab Assignments

Remember that when you are absent the day of the lab, these alternative assignments are due the same day as the lab assignment. This needs to be your original work. Do not simply cut and paste passages from the Internet.

Paper formatting: single spaced, 12 font, single tab indent for new paragraphs

1. Find 3 science journal articles and current events in science (these do not all have to be chemistry related). Summarize those articles in at least one page (3 pages total). Each paper must include the following: Name of the article, work(s) cited of the article, what the article was about, key events or people in the article, your opinion (if applicable)
2. Write a section in *Chemistry for Dummies* that gives:
   1. a detailed explanation of the steps in this experiment. Emphasize two kinds of action in language: describing the steps and explaining the purpose of each step.
   2. a detailed explanation of the concepts of the lab and how the lab is a concrete example of those concepts.
3. Choose one of the three prompts below to write a 2-3 page essay response.
   1. To what extent is a scientist responsible for the misuse of his or her knowledge by others?
   2. Comment on the following statement made by Carl Friedrich von Weizsacker, a German scientist, while held at Farm Hall, England, during the Allied occupation of Germany during World War II: “History will record that the Americans and the English made a bomb, and that at the same time the Germans, under the Hitler regime, produced a workable engine. In other words, the peaceful development of the uranium engine was made in Germany under the Hitler regime, whereas the Americans and the English developed this ghastly weapon of war.”
   3. Comment on the following statement by Joseph Rotblat, a scientist at the Los Alamos lab during World War II, who resigned his post as soon as he knew that the Germans were nowhere near building an atomic bomb: “The underlying notion that the acquisition of knowledge overrides all other considerations is unsustainable. Josef Mengele justified his ‘experiments’ in Auschwitz on the grounds that they would provide new ‘knowledge.’” Rotblat continues, “There are other principles that override it, humanitarian principles. Scientists must always remember that they are human beings first, scientists second. And adherence to ethical principles may sometimes call for limits on the pursuit of knowledge”