

Timothy Ryan
AP Euro
Period C
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Article Evaluation Worksheet

Title: Today marks a new age of discovery

Author: Juan Enriquez

News Source (Page): Boston Globe

Date: February 12, 2001

What is the general subject of the article?

The date of February 12, 2001, may one day be looked on as a turning point in history as the human genome was fully mapped that day.

What is its main idea and overall purpose?

The main idea of the article is that all great discoveries of history that impacted the world were often overlooked at the time, their implications only becoming noticed long after; but we have to context to understand why this day could potentially become so important.

What topic in the course does it relate to?

The article relates to the topics of events that have impacted all of mankind.

Five details supporting the main idea:

- a) February 12, 2001 is the day that the map of the human genome was released.
- b) Columbus himself did not know what he had discovered, and nor do we.
- c) The map will impact medicine, business, politics, religion, ethics, and war across the globe.
- d) Countries that understand it will likely become leading economic powers.
- e) We have the context to see its importance.

Is this article a fair treatment of the topic?

The article fairly evaluates the topic in the context of its imminent release that day. While over the past decade, we have not yet seen this prediction come to life, it is a valid thesis that Enriquez puts forth, and we may yet see this date go down in history as one of great importance. Understandably, though, it is sensationalist.

State and explain your point of view and how this article deals with it. (Critique the article.)

My opinion on the event, as much as I would like to agree with Enriquez, is that the date that the human genome was fully mapped out will not be one of particularly great importance. While the mapping of the human genome is certainly essential to many fields of human knowledge, its discovery isn't exactly that of a find such as Columbus' or any other explorer. We knew the human genome existed, it simply took a mapmaker to plot out its contents, the progress of which we could and did track as it progressed. As a result, this isn't a new age of discovery as much as it is an evolution in science, which is to be expected. I believe the article was simply trying to capitalize on the event to satisfy some belief in the author's mind in case his prediction came true, but doesn't have much valid evidence to support it.