Term Paper on Genetic Engineering

Please write a short paper on some aspect of plant genetic engineering. Choose an application of plant genetic engineering of your interest such as insect resistance, virus resistance, herbicide resistance, nutritional enhancement, abiotic stress, vaccines, etc. I may have papers on these areas for your background information. In your paper, give some background about your topic and then look at the specific issues that are being raised such as biological, ecological and food safety along with ethics, public perception, etc. Try to keep your arguments focused. Summarize the risks and benefits of this technology. In your concluding statements you should state whether you support or disapprove of this application of genetic engineering. (4-5 typed pages double-spaced)

To prepare for this paper, we will have a class debate about plant genetic engineering on March 24. Odd-numbered lab groups should present anti-biotech arguments, while even-numbered groups should present pro-biotech arguments. Use the internet to find information on these points of view. Try to present arguments based on facts. With your argument, please note the sources of your information. Are your sources biased or objective?

After you pick your topic for your term paper, you will need to give a 5 minute oral presentation (using powerpoint). The best 4 presentations (based upon class vote) will get 5 bonus points towards your final grade.

The term papers will be due April 21.