Key Health & Nutrition Issues
1. What were the striking inequalities (3 items) in health care (found in both developed and developing countries) that were reported in WHO’s 2008 World Health Report?

2. Health care is often delivered according to what model (i.e., what are the 3 factors on which it concentrates). What is the approach that WHO argues will protect against many of health care problems?

Grady, 'On an Altered Planet, New Diseases Emerge as Old Ones Re-Emerge"
1. According to a 2000 WHO report, what 6 factors have likely affected the distribution & emergence of infectious diseases since the 1970s?

2. What human activity do scientists believe played an essential role in the birth of the AIDS epidemic?

Spotts, “Science Takes Aim at the Swine Flu”
1. According to experts, compared to 20 years ago, what helped (3 examples) to address the problem of swine flu, including specific scientific advances?

2. What remains an issue in some parts of the world and what does the wide geographical distribution (of swine flu in Mexico) indicate?

Ford, “Foes of ‘Globesity' Run Afoot of Sugar's Friends"
1. Why is globesity spreading faster in LDCs than in DC and what strategies (2 examples) has WHO recommended to governments to address the problem (i.e. recommendations for people, the food industry & government policies)?

2. According to WHO studies, what is the relationship between habitual food scarcity and obesity?
Baldauf, “Developing Countries Vow to Shut Door on Big Tobacco”
1. Bolstered by the 2005 global treaty, sponsored by WHO (the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control), what new laws (3 examples) have 100 nations created?

2. Why have tobacco companies shifted their attention (from developed) to Africa, Latin America, and Asia?

Montlake, “Asia Acts to Contain China’s Tainted Milk”
1. What recent incident raised fresh doubts over the safety of global food supply chains?

2. According to Mr. Deforges, why won’t new laws—as proposed by some experts—prevent a repeat?

Montlake, “International Effort to Stop Land Mines Bears Fruit”
1. While the campaign may be slowing, why do some observers say that the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty is bearing fruit?

2. What group was responsible for the international ban on land mines and what is unusual about how the Ottawa convention enforces the ban & the deadlines for destroying stockpiles?

Sarrin, Small Arms in Latin America in the Aftermath of the NACLA Study”
1. According to the World Health Organization, what is the leading cause of death among Latin Americans between ages 15 and 44?

2. What facilitated the most significant flood of arms to Central America during the region’s widespread civil wars of the 1980s?

3. Though Latin America is no longer embroiled in the Cold War-era conflicts, rampant violence persists. What contributes to the rampant violence in the region and what has this led to a surge in?

McDonald, “Finally the World's Drinking Glass is More Than Half Full”
1. According to a recent WHO & UNICEF report, what critical tipping point was reached last year?

2. How have project that provide clean/piped drinking water and/or basic sanitation benefitted women, children, and poor urban dwellers in capital cities?
Crawley, “Puppets Get People Past the Taboos”
1. What issues are puppet shows focusing on in Africa and why are puppet shows gaining popularity among organizations with an educational mandate?

2. What type of projects are donor agencies increasingly funding?

Baldauf, “India's Bid to Boost Healthcare in the Slums”
1. Why are India's urban slums facing a health crisis?

2. How is a pilot project—funded by USAID & run by private healthcare advocacy groups—helping slum dwellers to improve their own health?

Itano, “World's Richest Man's Imprint on Africa”
1. What are initiatives that the Gates Foundation is funding to tackle health-related problems facing developing countries?

Baldauf, “India's Popular Soap Operas Becomes a National Soapbox”
1. What are a number of Indian soap operas trying to do and what are some issues they are addressing?

Carroll, “Egypt's Child Healthcare Lessons”
1. What factors are responsible for the significant drop in Egypt's infant mortality, child mortality, and maternal mortality rates during the past decade?

2. According to Aziz, why are more women now giving birth in a hospital, compared to in the past?

Chauvin, “Peru Gives its Poor More Money, But There's a Catch”
1. What is the new model for addressing the need of the downtrodden that is sweeping the (Latin American) continent and what is different about this program, compared to traditional programs?

2. Who is eligible for Peru's Juntos (Together) program, what benefits do participants receive, and what are participants required to do?
Lemmon, “Amid War, Afghanistan Trains Thousands of New Midwives”
1. According to Dr. Bartlett, what statistics for 2002 (2 examples) illustrate Afghanistan’s poor capacity to address the health needs of women and what factors (2 examples) have contributed to making maternal health among the nations most tangible signs of progress?

2. According to Afghan midwives working in the field see signs of improvement every day in the communities that they visit. In large part, to what is this due?

Focus on HIV/AIDS
McLaughlin, “In Africa, New Commitment to Treat AIDS"
1. After years of debate about how/if Africans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS should be treated, on what is there now significant global agreement?

2. Why is there a growing realization that dependence on these drugs will require new spending?

3. Why is it not clear how quickly first-line AIDS/HIV drugs will be effective in Africa?

Harman, “Kenya's Slums Battle AIDS"
1. What percent of the 40 million people with HIV/AIDS live in Sub-Saharan Africa? How many Africans have already died? How many African children have been left AIDS orphans? Within 10 years, what is the projected impact of AIDS on average life expectancy in the 11 most severely affected African countries?

2. What was the focus of the talk at the Barcelona conference and what needs to be done to combat AIDS in LDCs?

3. What’s the goal of KICOSHEP, who does it assist and what does it provide in addition to recreational activities?

Downie, “Brazil Pushes for Cheaper Drugs and Free AIDS Diagnosis"
1. Why does Dr. Galindo say that early diagnosis of the (HIV/AIDS) benefits both the patient and taxpayers?

2. What did Brazil do in 1996 to fight HIV/AIDS and how did Brazil reduce the amount it spends on antiretroviral drugs?
3. Recently, a landmark agreement was signed by Latin American health ministers and 26 drug companies. What does this agreement do?

Montlake, "Asian Faith Groups Join AIDS Fight"
1. What are 2 reasons that attention is turning to the role of faith-based groups in HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Asia?

2. What are faith-based groups in Bangladesh (Muslim) and Thailand (Buddhist) doing to combat HIV/AIDS?

LaFranchi, "25 Years of on, AIDS Still Spreading"
1. The UN's 5-year review of global efforts against AIDS highlighted progress and a worrying trend. What trend is an encouraging note and what is chief among trends of concern?

2. Despite the fact that the Bush administration has boosted HIV/AIDS funding and is paying special attention to the impact of AIDS in Africa, development and health groups are critical of U.S. policy. Why are they critical of US policy?

McLaughlin, "Africa Fights AIDS with Girl Power"
1. What is the current thinking on how to best tackle the (AIDS) epidemic?

2. What numbers are increasingly cited (UN AIDS Report) as reasons to change longstanding gender inequalities and cultural practices (in Africa)?

3. What is Uganda's Parliament, Joyce Kintu, and a growing number of Ugandan groups doing to combat AIDS?

Hanes, "A Safe Place for Children in the Age of AIDS"
1. What is Winnie Mabaso (and her neighbors) doing to help alleviate the burden of AIDS?

2. According to Richard Delate (UN AIDS), what is the regional phenomenon that has grown as the burden of AIDS has deepened?
Benequista, “Bush OKs $48 Billion for AIDS as Famine Looms”
1. What has President Bush done in an effort to battle AIDS, TB and malaria?

2. What are 3 ways that funds provided by PERFAR (President’s Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief) are being used to combat AIDS?

3. Despite the recent increase in US funding for PERFAR, why is Michael Taylor critical of PERFAR/US policy/politicians?

Itano, “Africa’s AIDS Fight: Fresh Focus on Multiple Partners”
1. According to John Molefe (Soul City Institute), what was the traditional model that has shaped AIDS prevention programs for decades and why have AIDS prevention programs been on the backburner in recent years?

2. How do many experts now believe that HIV is spreading and what’s needed to slow the epidemic?

Pfantz, “HIV Infection Plummets Among Young People: A UN Report”
1. According to a new UN report, where have the HIV infections among young people (15-24 year of age) plummeted and to what does the report credit this improvement?

2. The UN report found that 15 of 21 countries, HIV prevalence among young people has declined by more than 25%. What are 3 things that young people are doing in 13 countries (that have helped to reduce HIV prevalence)?

Controversies
Montlake, “Thailand Widens Scope of Generic Drugs”
1. What did the Thai government do that reignited the debate in the developing world over public-health emergencies and what makes Thailand’s move so provocative & potentially ripe for imitation?

2. What did the US do in 2001, which shows that developing countries aren't the only ones willing to cast aside intellectual property rights when it suits them?

Montlake, “Milk Formula Goes on Trial in Asia”
1. According to health experts, why are Asian countries backsliding in their efforts tout the health benefits that most physicians associate with breast milk?

2. According to WHO, what are the advantages of breast milk, compared to formula; and according to UNICEF, what has been the consequence of such practices (feeding formula to young children) in the Philippines?