

**2012 PSBR High School Essay Contest
Creative Category Winner**

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Day 1

They say there is no such thing as Heaven on Earth, but this is the closest thing I've ever seen to it. My family and I have been here only a day now and are already dividing at a rate that we haven't seen in a thousand generations. There is plenty of food, warmth, moisture, and protection here, and the pitiful defenses have had very little luck in keeping us out. Hearing the humans talk about us going into a "rat" was somewhat concerning to me, but so far it has brought us nothing but happiness. I suspect that they may be trying to get my kind to move from them into these rats. However, my cousins say humans are the best homes and can never be beaten. I guess everyone has opinions. Either way, I hope to enjoy my stay here for a very long time.

Day 2

It appears as though a rat may not be the best host for us after all. I thought the weak defenses of this animal would be a good thing, but it turns out we are quickly taking over the entire body and will soon destroy the rat. Along with these troubles I have recently overheard humans discussing some sort of vaccine. I have heard this word before, and I know only of the trouble that comes of it. This term is unanimous with mass murders and exterminations in the past that have wiped out complete nations of bacteria or viruses such as measles, smallpox, and the legendary polio. However, I have never actually come in contact with one, so I do not yet know if they are real or simply something to scare the young ones.

Day 3

There are no words that can be used to describe this scene. It came in the dead of night and wiped out everything in its path. There was no discrimination in what cell it killed, whether a parent in late age or a daughter fresh out of cytokinesis. The vaccine left no survivors whom it came in contact with. I was one of the lucky ones. I have managed to evade the vaccine thus far, but it is only a matter of time as I see it until I must suffer the same fate as all of those whom perished today. The rat appears to be almost fully recovered as of now, and its defenses with the help of this vaccine now are completely taking us over. The only thing I can think to do now is divide as many times as possible to save my species.

Day 4

I am writing this entry as I know it will be my last. I now understand what has happened to me and the rest of my fellow cells. We have been caught in a deadly experiment, not for the humans or rats, but for our innocent selves. Simply because we have killed several humans in history does not give them the right to destroy us by the thousands. I wish nothing but pain for both of them, but the humans appear to remain completely healthy, and despite the rat's setback

it remains as healthy as ever. If it were not for the work they did here, I am sure we would have been able to take over as many humans as we wanted, but it appears that is no longer possible. We must move to another creature, or die off in the process.

This is but one bacterium's point of view, but it captures the importance of biomedical research with animals. There have been countless diseases cured because of the efforts of humans and animals in this field, along with many groundbreaking surgeries and operations which have saved lives of thousands of humans throughout the years. Animal research is invaluable to the future of our society and is as necessary as the doctors who perform the tests. Also, because of the usage of the "replace, reduce, and refine" method, the use of animals is replaced with computer programs or other devices as much as possible, the number of test subjects are kept to a minimal, and the experiments are done as to inflict as little pain or distress as possible for the animal. Overall, biomedical research with animals is absolutely necessary.

Works Cited

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