In October, a new podcast series called Brave New Planet was launched. An accompanying podcast website (https://www.bravenewplanet.org) has been created to provide resources. At the intersection of science, technology, and social/public policy, we believe this series will provide both science and civics/history teachers with rich and relevant material to engage their students in deep discussion and analysis. Host Dr. Eric Lander was motivated to create the series not just to inform and entertain listeners, but to provide in-depth content packed with ideas that could be unpacked: "From the start, a driving goal of the project had been to make this material useful in the classroom."

Project Background

Brave New Planet is a podcast series hosted by scientist Eric Lander, president and founding director of the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, in partnership with the Boston Globe. The series aims to inspire discussion and draw listeners into thinking about hard questions that arise from scientific discoveries and technological advances. Brave New Planet explores the importance of carefully considering and debating scientific evidence to make wise choices by showing how smart, thoughtful, passionate people struggle with challenges that will shape our collective future. Brave New Planet does not advocate for specific answers, but rather demonstrates how to grapple with these ideas.

Featuring conversations with a diverse range of researchers, journalists, doctors, policy makers, activists, and legal experts, each episode of Brave New Planet aims to educate the public about how science is essential to debates about new technologies. In turn, the episodes also highlight what scientists can learn from their communities. The series consists of five hour-long topic-specific episodes bookended between short opening and closing episodes. The topic-specific episodes focus on: predictive algorithms, fully autonomous lethal weapons, solar geoengineering, synthetic media (deep fakes), and CRISPR-based gene drives.

The podcast website includes additional resources to educate the public and foster discussions about the various episodes. The website currently features links to scientific articles, news articles, and talks and videos so listeners can learn more about the topics covered in each episode.

Brave New Planet Teacher Job Description

The Brave New Planet team is hoping to collaborate with six great high school teachers to help develop and write a series of lessons to accompany the series. These lesson plans will be shared freely on the website for Brave New Planet.

We're looking to include two series of lesson plans, one geared towards high school science classrooms and one geared towards high school civics and social studies classrooms. We

anticipate that each of the <u>five</u> episodes would be used across <u>three</u> 50-minute class periods. So, we hope to have a total of 15 lessons for science classes and 15 lessons for civics/social studies classes.

Because we believe that great teaching and lesson planning is best done through teamwork, we will ask that the three selected science teachers collaborate together to create the 15 lesson plans, and similarly the three social studies teachers collaborate together to create the 15 lesson plans.

As a teacher collaborator, you would:

- Work as a team to initially draft the lesson plans
    - Following the template or format defined by the Brave New Planet (BNP) program staff
    - Sourcing & validating appropriate Internet-based resources required for your lesson plans
- Solicit and receive feedback on your drafts from:
    - Your BNP teacher collaborators
    - BNP program staff
- Revise and submit for approval a final lesson plan addressing issues raised by your reviewers
- Review and approve the final production copy of your lessons
- Review and comment on lessons developed by other BNP teachers for their BNP episodes

Teacher Job Qualifications

- Minimum 5 years teaching high school science/social studies classes.
- Portfolio of lessons plans for science/social studies that demonstrate creativity, ability to support teachers with deficient subject matter background, practical classroom time constraints, and pedagogical understanding of operating in a remote/virtual classroom.
- Fluency with Google docs and the Internet.

Teacher Compensation
- Each selected teacher will receive a total stipend of $1,000 for the completed work.
- Each selected teacher will be recognized on the website as a co-author of the lesson plans.

Time Frame
- Our goal is to have the lessons available for use by teachers nationally in January 2021.
- So, draft lesson plans will ideally need to be completed by the end of <u>December 2020 hopefully</u>.

Teacher Candidate Questions

Please answer the following questions in your application cover letter:

1) Tell us a little about you. If you are a science teacher what makes you passionate about science and teaching science? If you are a history/civics teacher, similarly, what makes you passionate about teaching civics?
2) When designing a lesson plan or mini unit for your students, what is a priority for you? What are your overarching goals in thinking about designing a series of lesson plans? Have you ever published or shared your lesson plans with other teachers?
3) Logistics: We know given COVID that this year is challenging for all teachers, we want to ensure that you will have the time to devote to this in addition to your responsibilities in the classroom. We also want to ensure that you believe your school leadership would be supportive of you doing this work, please share your thoughts on this.

For those selected for interviews, you will be asked to get creative: Please listen to the second episode of Brave New Planet on [Deep Fakes](). What would be one activity you might create for high school students to engage with part of the podcast episode? Please build out what a 15-20 minute activity would look like.

Interested teachers: Please apply [HERE]().