



## Bioengineering Current Events Assignment



Directions: You will be performing individual research regarding current news on research for bioengineering and sustainability. The final product will be a 1-page report summarizing and analyzing your source as well as the information provided by your source. You may use one of the recommended news sites or find an article from a different source with teacher approval. Make sure you select an article that has been written within the past year and one that is long enough with content that you will be able to both summarize and analyze the main points and connect it to our Bioengineering a Sustainable World module.

### Recommended News Sources:

- MIT: <http://news.mit.edu/topic/bio-bioeng-biotech>
- Algae World News: <http://news.algaeworld.org/>
- National Geographic: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/>
- Scientific American: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/>
- NASA: <https://climate.nasa.gov/>
- BBC News, Science: [https://www.bbc.com/news/science\\_and\\_environment](https://www.bbc.com/news/science_and_environment)
- CNN, Energy & the Environment: <https://www.cnn.com/specials/us/energy-and-environment>
- New York Times, Climate & Environment: <https://www.nytimes.com/section/climate?action=click&contentCollection=science&region=navbar&module=collectionsnav&pagetype=sectionfront&pgtype=sectionfront>

Article: ALGAE IN COSMETICS: FAB OR FAD? by Algae World News

### **Part I—Summary**

After critically reading your article, please provide a summary in 1-2 paragraphs that gives the reader key points and main ideas from your article without having to read the article themselves.

Points to consider addressing in your summary:

- Identify what you think the “thesis” statement would be for this article.
- What were the key points made that supported the main “thesis”?
- Were there any graphs/ images and how did they support what was written?

### **Part II—Analysis**

Following your summary of the article, write 2-3 paragraphs of analysis. This is your opportunity to connect what you’ve read about to your pre-existing knowledge of biofuels.

Points to consider addressing in your analysis:

- Who wrote this article and what do you think the purpose of writing the article was?
- Who is the target audience of the article?
- What type of article is this—opinion? Informative?
- In what way is biofuel discussed—for example, is the article presenting scientific findings or discussing social/ economic aspects?
- Are any experts quoted in the article; if so—who are they and what makes them a credible source?
- Why did you select this article? What did you like about? What points do you agree and/or disagree with and why?
- What further questions do you have regarding bioengineering and sustainability after reading this article?

**\*\*Make sure to cite your article on your paper & be prepared to share your findings with others!**

Student Example

*Bioengineering a Sustainable World - Lesson 2 (Student Example 2 of 2)*



Article: Algaeworldnews. "Algae in Cosmetics: Fab or Fad?" *ALGAE WORLD NEWS*, 7 Aug. 2019, [news.algaeworld.org/2019/06/algae-in-cosmetics-fab-or-fad/](https://news.algaeworld.org/2019/06/algae-in-cosmetics-fab-or-fad/).

Algae World News' article *Algae in Cosmetics: Fab or Fad?* introduces the cosmetics industry's groundbreaking new product: algae. Known for remedying dry skin, algae has a ton of benefits including being antibacterial and anti-inflammatory. Algae can be easily grown and is relatively plentiful. However, as of now products using algae are limited due to the intensive research required to develop the right strand and curate a product. Products such as Lush Sea Vegetable Soap and Exuviance Anti Redness Calming Serum give consumers a wide range of products and prices to choose from.

Algae World News is the "one-stop algae industry information platform," distributing relevant global news. They produce articles like *Algae in Cosmetics: Fab or Fad?* to advertise algae products and bring awareness to their audience about strides in the algae in a variety of different industries. In particular, Algae World News shares both informative facts, such as the health benefits, and opinions about whether consumers should purchase these products. This is evident by giving multiple details supporting and justifying the cost of algae makeup and linking pre-existing products directly on the webpage.

Overall, biofuel is not directly discussed in the article since the focus is on cosmetic application. However, the article does discuss the sustainability of the algae. For example, the article asserts that algae is plentiful and easy to grow in both clean and saline water sources. This hints at other industry applications aside from cosmetics. They support their claims with scientists from the makeup industry to support their claims about the positives of algae. Furthermore, these experts also reinforce the idea that algae is sustainable and is highly applicable and here to stay in makeup.

I selected this article because I enjoy learning about the applications of algae. It is highly informational and gives consumers a good idea of the direction of algae research. I agree with algae being sustainable but I am still dubious about all algae being beneficial for the same reasons. I wonder if the algae in cosmetic wear is bioengineering or if it is directly harvested based on selective engineering.