

Biology 155a
Project Laboratory in Genetics and Genomics
Writing Assignment 2

What's a Gene? Revisited

Take some time to read the following three papers

- Gibbs, "The Unseen Genome: Gems among the Junk" *Scientific American*, 2003.
- Mattick, "Challenging the Dogma: the Hidden Layer of Non-protein-coding RNAs in Complex Organisms, *BioEssays*, 25: 930-9, 2003.
- Pearson, "What is a Gene?" *Nature* 44: 398-401, 2006.

After reading these papers, answer again the question, "What's a gene?" this time drawing on what you learned in these papers. This paper should be written for a general audience, as if you were writing for the science section of a newspaper like *The Boston Globe* or *The New York Times*. This paper should be 1-2 pages in length.

Take a look at the handout, "Science Writing for a General Audience." This is meant to help you as you write your essay.