Year 12 Science: Biological validity: judging the science in public claims

Name: _____ Date: _____

Try these without your notes first, then check the answer key.

Practice

1. A social media post says: 'Antibiotics will help you get over the flu faster.' Label the claim and correct it.

2. A dairy company's website says milk contains calcium, which is needed to build strong bones. Label the claim, and say who produced it and a likely audience.

3. A supplement's website says: 'In our study of 15 people, 12 felt less tired after two weeks.' Give two weaknesses in this evidence.

4. A student writes: 'The Wakefield paper was peer reviewed, so its findings were valid.' What is wrong with this?

5. An article contains three claims: a true one about vitamin C, an untrue one saying its product cures colds, and a vague quote from 'scientists'. Which should rank first for Excellence, and why?

6. Why does a vested interest not automatically make a claim inaccurate?

Fix the mistake

7. Correct this statement: "The intended audience is the general public."

8. Correct this statement: "The company wants to sell it, so everything it says is inaccurate."

9. Correct this statement: "It was in a peer-reviewed journal, so it must be true."

10. Correct this statement: "For Excellence I summarised every claim again at the end."