

\*Break into 2 teams. Winning team has no HW. Your ONLY responsibility is to prep for the midterm by memorizing all the steps of writing. From reading in simple English to prettification. (FYI – I won't be "hand feeding" you the steps today!! So, I hope you already have them memorized!) The losing team has HW. That group has to do another paper in preparation for the midterm! The losing group will elect a NEW captain (since the prior one CLEARLY didn't do their job) and meet online tonight in a zoom mtg for 1 hour to write a new paper). Dr. Hammer will give the new captain the prompt and (s)he will set the meeting time. If you can't make it, complete the HW on your own and hand it in to Dr. Hammer at his office -- prior to the Midterm.

### Practice paper #3: Are vaccines dangerous

Imagine you're an HPM Major interested in vaccine epidemiology. For the 2-page midterm paper in **HPM 351 – "Politics, Public Health, and Health Policy"**, you are assigned to examine Gillings' "overview of vaccinology principles, mechanisms of action, statistics and herd protection". Linked [HERE](#). The reason you took this class is because you want to become a pediatrician, and you've become confused about the efficacy and safety of mandated vaccines and, of course, want to make the best recommendations for your young (and quite vulnerable) patients. Simply, you want to follow the science, not the hype and, that is why you've ALWAYS followed The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), specifically its Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) policies' and guidelines. Yet, with RFK Jr.'s recent appointment, there are now "evolving" and what seem to you contradictory policies. Your gut tells you he's a "quack" who lacks ANY medical licensure, no PhD and has a long-standing history as an "anti-vaxer" (see [LINK](#) from the BBC).

However, your solid understanding (honestly driven by an epistemology of "belief" in the science that you haven't actually read yourself) informs you that vaccines work, they're effective and they are exceptionally safe. But again, that's just the logic fallacy of hearsay. The anti-vaxers, you presume, are all just uninformed nut-jobs, active disinformationists, Russian troll bots posting to Tic Toc, or yoga moms! Consequently, your prof has asked you to examine: "What, if any causal link(s) exist between SPECIFIC vaccines (i.e., MMR, COVID, Flu vaccines) and issues like autism, cancers, allergy development, etc. **Put simply, what, if any public health implications actually exist for those vaccinated?**"

[Here's some initial reading to create to Wiki Headings:](#)

Vaccine Hesitancy: [Link](#)

Anti Vaccine Activism: [LINK](#)

Polio Eradication: [LINK](#)

Vaccines and Autism: [LINK](#)

Covid Vaccine: [LINK](#)

Vaccine Adverse Event: [LINK](#)

[Here's some reading to collect citations: Copy and paste these into \*\*UNC Google Scholar\*\*](#)

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