

**SCI 100 Module Four Short Answer Guidelines and Rubric
The Role of Funding in Research**

Prompt: In this short answer assignment, you'll explore what can happen when special interest groups spend money to fight against scientific research that would harm their business.

For this assignment, choose one of the following two articles:

1. [Clair Patterson and the Age of the Earth: Fighting for a Clean Earth](#)
2. [Big Tobacco and Science: Uncovering the Truth](#)

If you chose the **first** article, respond to the following questions:

1. Why do you think the lead manufacturers and petroleum companies fought so hard against the scientific evidence Patterson uncovered about lead?
2. What tactics did these companies use to try to undermine Patterson's research?
3. What do their efforts say about the role of funding and "big money" in scientific research?

If you chose the **second** article, respond to the following questions:

1. Why do you think the tobacco companies fought against evidence that showed the harmful effects of secondhand smoke?
2. What tactics did these companies use to try to downplay this evidence?
3. What do their efforts say about the role of funding and "big money" in scientific research?

Rubric

Guidelines for Submission: Submit your responses in a Microsoft Word document. The length of your responses to each question may vary. A good response will be about 1–2 paragraphs in total.

Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (75%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Evidence	Explains why companies with special interests fought against scientific evidence using evidence from the chosen article	Explains why companies with special interests fought against scientific evidence, but explanation is unclear or lacking support	Doesn't explain why companies with special interests fought against scientific evidence	30
Tactics	Explains the tactics that companies used to downplay or undermine the scientific findings using evidence from the chosen article	Explains what tactics the companies used to downplay or undermine the scientific findings, but explanation is unclear or lacking support	Doesn't explain what tactics the companies used to downplay or undermine the scientific findings	30

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Critical Elements	Proficient (100%)	Needs Improvement (75%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Funding	Discusses what the companies' efforts say about the role of funding and "big money" in scientific research	Discusses what the companies' efforts say about the role of funding and "big money" in scientific research, but explanation is lacking detail	Doesn't discuss what the companies' efforts say about the role of funding and "big money" in scientific research	30
Communicates Clearly	Clearly communicates key ideas and thoughts in a short-answer response	Response needs clarification in order to support understanding of key ideas and thoughts	Key ideas or thoughts are not understandable	10
Total				100%