

Pre-Lab Activity: Radiation Podcast Student Sheet

Have you ever wondered if you're frying your brain with your cell phone? Is it possible that using your cell phone could cause damage to your body?

Listen to a podcast between a New York Times Blog writer and the editor of Microwave News, a publication that reports on the potential health and environmental impacts of radiation. See what they have to say about how cell phone radiation works, and if your health is at risk when you use a cell phone.

Find the podcast at: <http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/06/13/the-well-podcast-answers-to-your-cellphone-questions/>

After listening to the podcast, answer the following questions. Use the space provided to write or type your responses. **Provide sufficient explanations, and use evidence to support your responses.** Refer to the attached rubric for guidance in how this assignment will be graded.

- 1) How does a cell phone use radiation to function?
- 2) What type of radiation do cell phones use? How is this different from other types of radiation?
- 3) How can radiation be harmful to people?
- 4) Do we know for sure if cell phones cause health risks? Why or why not?
- 5) Based on what you heard in this podcast, do you think you are "frying your brain" with your cell phone? Why or why not?
- 6) If you were a scientist, how would you test if cell phones cause health risks? What type of experiment might you design to figure out if you are frying your brain with your cell phone?

Podcast Rubric

Total Possible Score: 30 points
(5 points per question)

Question Score	Content	Quality
5	Response clearly addresses the question, and uses strong evidence from the podcast to support the response.	Response provides clear and logical explanation .
4	Response clearly addresses the question and uses somewhat strong evidence from the podcast to support the response.	Response provides clear and logical explanation .
3	Response somewhat addresses the question and uses weak evidence from the podcast to support the response.	Response provides somewhat clear and logical explanation .
2	Response does not address the question and uses weak evidence from the podcast to support the response.	Response provides poor explanation .
1	Response does not address the question and uses no evidence from the podcast to support the response.	Response provides no explanation .
0	Response is incomplete or left blank .	