

Dear _____ (put your name here)

As you may know, we are expecting our first child in about 3 months. What you may not know is that currently your cousin and my wife, Jane, is in hospital with a viral brain infection. The doctors want to do an MRI scan to see how the infection is affecting her brain. They are concerned about swelling and blood clots. I know x-rays aren't great for a fetus but what about MRI?

I know Jane would ask your advice herself if she could. She respects your opinion as a logical thinker with a strong science background. Unfortunately, she is in no condition to analyze the situation herself and so I am acting on her behalf.

Would you allow the doctors to do an MRI? Is there a better scan they could do? (X-ray, CT scan or ultrasound?)

Hoping you can respond very soon,

John

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Science in Society : Dear John Letter

Your assignment is to respond in writing to John's request. Your writing will take the form of a personal letter, so please add a date, start with 'Dear John, write in proper paragraphs and close with a salutation. Be clear about the issue, explain the scanning techniques *briefly* and come to a decision based on your facts. Remember you are writing to an intelligent man but one that may not know physics as in depth as you do.

Organize your letter effectively so it is clear and easy to follow. You may consider outlining the issue in the first paragraph, explaining the scan and their pros/cons in the body and reaching a supported decision in the last paragraph.

Your letter cannot be more than 2 pages typed single spaced (4 pages double spaced). Probably 1.5 would be ideal.

Due Date for assignment: _____