**“Taking the Least of You” Blog Assignment**

**Directions:** This assignment is designed to enhance the textbook information and relates to your assigned book, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.” Read and reflect on the article, “Taking the Least of You.” Based on your reflection, write a blog post regarding your reaction to the article.

**The blog post will be assessed on the following elements (see grading rubric):**

1. **The main ideas you identify**
2. **How this reading relates to other readings (complements or contradicts)**
3. **Questions raised or answered in your mind**
4. **An overall judgment on the merit of the readings.**

Therefore, the blog is basically a mini synthesis paper. It should include an introductory paragraph that gives a brief introduction/explanation of the topic. This should be your first paragraph.

* 1. **What is a synthesis?** The main purpose of a synthesis essay is to make insightful connections. Those connections can show the relationship(s) between parts of a work or even between two or more works. It is your job to explain why those relationships are important. In order to write a successful synthesis essay, you will need to gather research (2 sources) and use it to discover meaningful connections throughout your research (your articles), and develop a unique and interesting argument or perspective.
	2. **A synthesis is not a summary. A synthesis is** an opportunity to create new knowledge out of already existing knowledge, i.e., other sources such as articles and other material that we discuss in class. You combine, “synthesize,” the information in your sources to develop an argument or a unique perspective on a topic.

Your focus should be on the **depth** (i.e. how does this relate to what we covered in class or how will you use this knowledge in the future) and not just writing. Please note that although this is a personal reflection, I do expect you to use cohesive thoughts, use complete sentences, and appropriate grammar. Please be prepared to answer questions regarding your posts.

Helpful hints: concepts to focus on would include property/intellectual rights and ownership of human tissue.