



## ASHES VIDEO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Zombies and Public Health

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1. Dr. Shibata entertains the idea that zombies could very much be real in the future. Whether it be from a pathogen, or air pollution, or a genetic mutation. What do you believe is the most likely source of a potential zombie apocalypse? Why?
2. Dr. Shibata explains that although radiation can be harmful, in some cases it can also be helpful i.e. x-rays and chemotherapy. What is another example of something that is usually perceived as bad, being used for a positive purpose?
3. The CDC recently published a survival plan for the zombie apocalypse. Do you believe that the CDC genuinely believes that zombies could become a threat to mankind, or was this more of an attention grabbing campaign?

### Explore Angela Grippo's Psychology Lab

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1. One way to test for anxiety in rodents is to suspend them off the ground on an elevated '+' sign. Scientists are able to test whether rodents are anxious or not depending on whether they choose to go onto the more open and clear portions of the plus as opposed to the dark walled off portions. Could you imagine an anxiety test for humans? What would it be like?
2. Prairie Voles used for scientific purposes with Dr. Grippo are able to live in a social environment like the ones humans live in. What are some examples of other animals that have living patterns and actions similar to humans?
3. What do you believe prairie vole brains can tell us about the brains of humans? Make an educated guess and support it.

## This is Your Bain on EMPs

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1. Dr. Grippo suggests that the zombies in *Ashes* were humans who had brains that were subjected to communication errors, which caused them to go from normal citizens to their blood thirsty zombie selves. What else do you believe miscommunication in the brain is capable of?
2. Studying psychology allows us to ask questions about human behavior and human nature. If you got to select a type of psychology to study, which type would you select? Why?
3. Research and hands on studies are very important to the study of psychology. If you had a chance to partake in a study or a research project what would you experiment with? Why?

*STEM Read and SmartSpace@NIU are part of Northern Illinois University's STEAM Works Initiative.*

