**6.01 FDA Bad Bug Book(BBB): Mushrooms**

**Background**

Mushrooms are a great source of protein and nutrients. If you eat the wrong kind of mushroom, however, you can be poisoned. Mushroom poisoning, also known as *mycetism*, refers to the ingestion of poisonous mushrooms. Effects of mycesitism include severe gastrointestinal inflammation, paralysis, and death. The toxins are secondary metabolites that are produced by the biochemical pathways within the fungal cells. Most poisonings occur after the ingestion of a misidentified wild mushroom.

Many toxic mushrooms that are found in the wild closely resemble edible species. Their morphology (how they look) closely resembles one another. In 2010, The AAPCC (American Association of Poison Control Centers) reported that 5,912 people were poisoned by mushrooms in the United States. Of that number, only one person was known to have died and been reported by the AAPCC. Some people and scientists believe that this number is actually higher, closer to 12 to 15. Why would some people not believe the AAPCC’s mushroom death statistic to be factual?

**Assignment**

Use the FDA’s Bad Bug Book (BBB) to educate an audience of your choice about mycetism. Choose one of the following:

* Young children (pre-school)
* Boy Scout or Girl Scout Troops
* Non-native English speakers
* College Hiking Club

Create something that will help this audience to understand the dangers of this “Bad Bug.”

Use an Internet search engine to find the “Mushrooms FDA Bad Bug Book.” Your teacher can also give you a copy of this publication. The current format of this publication is not appropriate for any of the audiences above. Your job is to create something (a play, a poster, a book, etc) to help educate your audience about the dangers of this bad bug.

**Rubric**

You and your teacher will develop a rubric or criteria for assessing your work.