

Pros	Cons
Man has been doing selective breeding since agriculture began. Genetic engineering is really no different.	Genetic Engineering involves the moving of genes that nature could never do. This will pose unexpected consequences.
GE often uses bacteria or other organisms to shuttle the genes into the target organisms. Having the genes that make them dangerous removed or disabled cripples these vectors.	GE makes use of pathogenic organisms such as viruses and bacteria as vectors of the gene that is being transferred. These pathogens could spread into the environment with unpredictable and dangerous consequences.
GE does involve some risk, but all procedures are subject to strict monitoring. The risk is therefore minimal. No popular technology is without risk, e.g. automobile. New varieties are tested for toxicity more than any crop plants have ever been in the past, therefore they are likely to be safer.	GE is potentially dangerous and the consequences could be devastating and irreversible. Furthermore, the adverse consequences could take years to show up. Genetic pollution is fundamentally different since once the genes are inserted they cannot be recalled.
Enhances biodiversity by allowing weeds to continue growing for longer thus providing nutrition for animals. The reduced use of insecticides also increases insect diversity.	The total herbicides and insecticides used with tolerant crops kill all weeds and insects thus reducing biodiversity in the field.
Helps solve the problem of world hunger by creating varieties, which will make more efficient use of scarce land. Crops can be engineered to improve the health and welfare of people all over the world	World hunger will not be solved by technological means. It is a problem of inequitable distribution of wealth. A balanced diet is really all that is needed
Royalties or fees are offset by the advantage of using the crop. In the end, there is more profit for the farmer and lower prices for the consumer.	The farmer cannot save seed from year to year and therefore has more expenses. There is no benefit to the consumer.
GE allows the creation of plants that produce vaccines, pharmaceuticals or enhanced pharmaceutical raw materials.	GE is already used to produce pharmaceuticals in micro-organisms in the much safer <i>containment</i> conditions of biotechnology factories. It should not be taken out into the environment thus putting the environment at risk.

Adapted From: <http://www.anth.org/ifgene/proscons.htm>

