

Name: _____

Date: _____

Life Science

Period: _____



THE POWER OF PLACEBO

By Michael Brooks
Muse Magazine

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. You will be graded according to the distributed Weekly Science Article rubric.

1. What is a **placebo**? _____

2. Diazepam, or Valium, is an actual medication that is prescribed regularly around the world. Why is it considered to be a placebo in some ways?

3. Approximately 35 to 45 percent of all prescriptions written by doctors today are for placebos. Are all of these prescriptions for sugar pills? If not, what are the doctors prescribing?

4. Why would a doctor write a prescription for something that he/she knows is a placebo?

5. Explain the *nocebo effect*.
