

The Living Century: Introduction

Directions: After reading the introduction to *The New York Times Magazine* article “The Living Century,” respond to the following questions:

Why does Steven Johnson choose to open the article by describing the flu epidemic in 1918?	
After the end of the Great Influenza, the average lifespan doubled. According to Johnson, why has history failed to recognize this achievement?	
The author describes an “invisible shield” that protects our very existence. What elements compose this invisible shield and how has the experience of the pandemic made that shield visible?	
How do changes generated from medical breakthroughs in the past century, such as vaccines and antibiotics, differ from the way change is portrayed in film or even discussed in history?	