

## **“My great-great aunt discovered Francium. And it killed her.”**

(*New York Times* article by Veronique Greenwood)

<http://nyti.ms/1tLA32H>

Essay assignment:

Read the entire article. Don't skim it -- READ it.

Write a 1-2 page essay, discussing the following points:

- Provide a brief overview of the article (e.g., what was the main thesis?)
- Describe several facts discussed in the article about Mendeleev's Table, the elements, and/or radioactive decay that you *already* knew
- Describe several facts that you did **not** previously know.
- Which part(s) of the article did you find to be particularly interesting? Why?
- Discuss the apparent **lack of safety protocols** in place at many of the research institutes studying radioactivity in the first half of the 20th century.

Do the "*ends justify the means*" when the outcome is a major scientific discovery?