Plato’s Brain

**Plato (427 – 347 B.C.)**

Plato was a Greek Philosopher who attempted to show the rational relationship between the soul, the state and the cosmos. He was a student of Socrates and during his lifetime founded a school, tried (in vain) to implement his political ideals, and was a great writer. He was brilliant in all fields of knowledge and was able to express his ideas in both poetic and dialectic style. He wrote several books during his lifetime.

So, what does this have to do with Biology? Plato had a marvelous mind. His brain was magnificient. In this assignment, you will build a model of the human brain. You may use our version of PLATO (play dough) or other supplies if you prefer.

Here is the recipe for play dough:

½ cup of salt

1 cup flour

1 cup water

2 tablespoons of vegetable oil

2 teaspoons of cream of tarter – in a small box usually in the “baking goods” section of the store

Boil these ingredients together. Cool. You can add color to the dough using food coloring, Kool-aid, or Jello powder. Kool-aid gives vibrant colors and amazing odors.

**You will need to show the following parts of the brain: *Frontal, parietal, occipital and temporal lobes; cerebellum; medulla oblongata; pons; corpus callosum; hypothalamus; pituitary; spinal cord.*** Make enough different colors of play dough to properly differentiate all of these parts.

\*\*\* one batch using this recipe will make more than enough play dough for one brain model. You may choose to pair up with someone and each make, for example, 4 different colors, and then share.

\*\*\* if you would prefer to purchase store bought play dough, you may.

**Brain Model Evaluation**  Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Anatomical accuracy 1 2 3 4 5
2. Labeling 1 2 3 4 5
3. Detail & Color 1 2 3 4 5
4. List of Functions 1 2 3 4 5

**Total: \_\_\_\_\_\_ / 20**