

EVE 491/591  
Toxicology

**Case Study #1. "Mary Beth"**

**Part 6. Decision Time**

A year had passed since Mary Beth first withdrew from school. She had resumed her studies and was walking across campus toward her next class while talking with her mother on a cell phone. She was overjoyed to hear the doctor's report that her mother's tumor seemed to be completely gone and there were no abnormal cells in her mother's lymph system. This meant that the cancer did not metastasize or spread to other parts of the body. The doctor planned to continue following her progress but was fairly confident that the cancer had been cured for good. Mary Beth was relieved, although she was still angry about the coal mines.

*"The coal mines may have given my mother cancer but at least she'll survive, unlike my dad."*

**Question**

1. With all that you have learned from the research article and other readings do you agree with Mary Beth that her mother's cancer can be blamed on the coal mines? Justify your answer.
2. Rethink question number 1 in the following contexts:
  - Her mother suffered from ovarian cancer.
  - Her mother suffered from stomach cancer.
  - Her mother suffered from lung cancer.