Noedl et al. 2006 Scientific Paper Guiding Questions

Parasite Predicament

- 1. What is considered to be best the diagnostic tool used by scientists for detection of asexual parasites?
- 2. What are some of the shortcomings of this tool?
- 3. What diagnostic tool are the authors testing in this paper? What are they specifically testing for?
- 4. In what country was this study performed? Why do you think it was performed in this country?
- 5. How many people participated in the study? Why is a large sample size important?
- 6. What is sensitivity? What was the overall sensitivity of the ELISA when testing for malaria?
- 7. What is specificity? What was the overall specificity of the ELISA when testing for malaria?
- 8. Do you think that ELISA assays are a useful tool for diagnosing malaria? Discuss when and why ELISA would be a useful and when other diagnostics are more appropriate.