



Dear Parents and Guardians,

For the next nine lessons your student will be learning about the topics of organ/tissue/cornea donation and transplantation.

The lessons will include information on:

- Which organs and tissue can be donated
- How to maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Organ Allocation
- Careers in Healthcare
- National/State Data
- Transplantation and Diverse Cultures

As with other units of study, you do have the right to “opt out” for your student if you choose. During these 9 lessons, your student will be required to spend his/her time working on another unit of study to be determined by their teacher.

Please only return this form if you do not wish for your student to participate in this unit of study.

“I **do not** wish for my student to participate in this unit of study.”

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Student Name

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Date

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Parent Signature

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Printed Name



# *Pre/Post Tests*



## Pre-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the correct answer for each statement below.

1. One organ and tissue donor can provide life-saving or life-enhancing transplants to more than 50 people.

True or False

2. If you are registered as an organ donor it will affect the hospital care you receive in an emergency or life-threatening situation.

True or False

3. All of the following organs can be successfully transplanted except

a. the kidneys    b. the heart    c. the brain    d. the lungs

4. Tissue that can be successfully transplanted include . . . (circle all that apply)

a. cornea    b. bone    c. skin    d. ligaments

5. A person on a transplant waiting list has a greater chance of receiving a transplant if that person . . .

a. is wealthy.  
b. has a university education.  
c. is sicker than most waiting.  
d. has worked in the health care field.

6. If I choose to be a potential organ and tissue donor I should:

a. Let my family know my wishes.  
b. Learn facts about organ/tissue donation.  
c. Say "yes" to donation when I apply for or renew my driver license.  
d. All of the above.



7. Below there are several statements assessing your feelings about organ and tissue donation. Please circle all of the statements that apply to you.

a. I have heard of organ and tissue donation before, but have never thought about what I want to do.

b. I think that becoming an organ and tissue donor is a positive thing to do.

c. I know someone who has been affected by donation and transplantation.

d. I would like to register as an organ and tissue donor.

e. I would not like to become an organ and tissue donor.

Please state your reasons:

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## Post-Test

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Circle the correct answer for each statement below.

1. If you are registered as an organ donor it will affect the hospital care you receive in an emergency or life-threatening situation.

True or False

2. One organ and tissue donor can provide life-saving or life-enhancing transplants to more than 50 people.

True or False

3. All of the following organs can be successfully transplanted except

a. the brain    b. the heart    c. the lungs    d. the kidneys

4. Tissue that can be successfully transplanted include . . . (circle all that apply)

a. skin            b. bone            c. cornea            d. ligaments

5. A person on a transplant waiting list has a greater chance of receiving a transplant if that person . . .

a. has worked in the health care field.  
b. has a university education.  
c. is wealthy.  
d. is sicker than most of the others waiting.

6. If I choose to be a potential organ and tissue donor I should:

a. Let my family know my wishes.  
b. Learn the facts about organ and tissue donation.  
c. Say "yes" to donation when I apply for or renew my driver license.  
d. All of the above.

7. Would you register to become an organ and tissue donor?



a.Yes    b.No

8. If you answered YES to question number 7 please indicate how important the following factors were in your decision.

	Low Importance			High Importance	
Desire to benefit society	1	2	3	4	5
Chance to save a persons life	1	2	3	4	5
Personal experience with donation or transplantation (family member or close friend)	1	2	3	4	5
Media exposure to donation or transplantation	1	2	3	4	5
My family supports organ donation	1	2	3	4	5
My religion supports organ donation	1	2	3	4	5
Other (Please Explain):					

9. If you answered NO to question number 7 please indicate how important the following factors were in your decision.

	Low Importance			High Importance	
Doctors will not do everything to save my life	1	2	3	4	5
Some of the people on the list are undeserving	1	2	3	4	5
Personal experience with donation or transplantation (family member or close friend)	1	2	3	4	5
Media exposure to donation or transplantation	1	2	3	4	5
My family does not support organ donation	1	2	3	4	5
My religion does not support organ donation	1	2	3	4	5
Other (Please Explain):					





## **Pre and Post Test Answer Keys:**

### **Pre-test:**

1. True
2. False
3. C. the brain
4. A. cornea, B. bone, C. skin, D. ligaments
5. C. is sicker than most of the others waiting.
6. D. All of the above.
7. Personal opinion question. There are no right or wrong answers.

### **Post-test:**

1. False
2. True
3. A. the brain
4. A. skin, B. bone, C. cornea, D. ligaments
5. D. is sicker than most of the others waiting.
6. D. All of the above.

Questions 7, 8, 9 are based on personal opinion. There are no right or wrong answers.

# Introducing the Topic of Donation



**GRADE LEVEL** 6-12<sup>SEP</sup>, Ages 11-18

**TIME** One class period

## OVERVIEW

This lesson introduces the topics of Organ Donation and Transplantation, and dispels students' preconceived notions about these topics.

## LESSON OBJECTIVE

Students will be introduced to the topics, and begin to understand the processes of donation and registering to be a donor.

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-12.1, 1.A, C, D, 2, 3, 4, 5, W.9-12.1, 1.A, 1.B., 1.E, 10.2, 10.2.A, 10.2.D, 2.F, 6, 7, 8, 9

## Next Generation Science Standards

HS-LS1.A

## PREPARATION

- Before class, go to [www.gorecycleyourself.com](http://www.gorecycleyourself.com), register for access
- Steps: Resources, Fill in form, Classroom Tools, Top two videos on the left

"Donation and Transplantation How Does it Work?" (4:57 - cartoon graphics)

"Your Decision to Donate" (10:59 - High school students being interviewed; donor recipients and families)

- Copy: Beliefs About Donation

## Lesson

1. Unit Pre-Quiz (optional): Distribute a pre-lesson quiz. Students may correct their responses throughout the lesson using a different colored pen or pencil.

2. Utilize questions or discussion prompts to launch a class or small group discussion activity:

- The Waiting List
- Donation Ethics
- Fact or Fiction

3. Videos: display both videos previously prepared.

4. Have students complete the prompt: "I am/am not/plan to be/ a registered organ, eye and tissue donor because..." Ask students to exchange their prompt with another student. Have students underline or highlight factual reasons given vs. opinions. Have students mark reasons that require evidence.

5. Homework: "Beliefs About Donation"

Adapted from Donate Life Northwest Curriculum





## 10 Ethical Questions to Ask Your Students:

1. Should inmates be eligible for organ and tissue donation?
2. Should drug addicts and alcoholics be eligible for the waiting list?
3. Should children be given precedence on the waiting list? Why?
4. Do you think people should have the right to sell their kidneys for money? Why or why not?
5. Should parents or family members have the right to override someone's desire to donate their organs and tissue at their time of death?
6. If someone can afford to pay for an organ or tissue, should they be required to?
7. Do you think that it is a personal or a religious decision to donate organs and tissue? Why?
8. How would you handle it if someone you loved were brain dead and wanted to donate their organs and tissue, but no one in your family could agree?
9. Would you be willing to donate a kidney to someone you loved? What about to a stranger? To a neighbor?
10. What if you knew that the person that was going to receive an organ donated by you was of a religion or culture that you did not like? Would you still agree to donate? Why or why not?

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There are no right or wrong answers to these questions. They are meant to engage critical thinking, debate and reasoning skills. See what you can do to incorporate these or other questions into a lesson plan. For more ideas, visit the OPTN website at: <http://www.optn.org/resources/bioethics.asp>.



## **WARM-UP DISCUSSION: THE WAITING LIST**

### **QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS**

1. Why do you think that close to 100 Americans die every week waiting for a transplant?
2. What do you think is the hardest part of being on the waiting list for an organ?
3. Why might families who are approached about donating their loved one's organs and tissues say no?
4. What can we do to help decrease the size of the waiting list for organs?

## **WARM-UP DISCUSSION: THE ETHICS OF DONATION**

The following questions are meant to engage critical thinking, debate, and reasoning skills. There is no right or wrong answer.

1. How would you handle it if someone you loved were brain dead and wanted to donate their organs and tissue, but no one in your family could agree whether to authorize the donation?
2. Should inmates be eligible for organ and tissue donation?
3. Should drug addicts and alcoholics be eligible for the waiting list?
4. Should children be given precedence on the waiting list? Why?
5. Do you think people should have the right to sell their kidneys for money? Why or why not?
6. Should parents or family members have the right to override someone's desire to donate their organs and tissue at their time of death?
7. Do you think that it is a personal or a religious decision to donate organs and tissue? Why?
8. Should a person in whom a transplant has failed be given a second organ, or should a different person have a first chance?
9. Would you be willing to donate a kidney to someone you loved? To a neighbor? What about to a stranger?



10. What if you knew that the person that was going to receive an organ donated by you was of a religion or culture that you did not like? Would you still agree to donate? Why or why not?

## **FACT OR FICTION? ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

1. Doctors won't try to save your life if they learn that you are an organ and tissue donor.
2. Elderly people can't be donors – you have to be young and healthy.
3. Most major religions support donation.
4. Being an organ or tissue donor disfigures the body.
5. You can make a lot of money in the United States by selling a kidney.
6. Organ donation is expensive, and burdens a grieving family with a lot of medical bills.
7. Rich and famous people in need of an organ transplant get preferential treatment, and don't have to wait as long as "regular" people.
8. The need for kidney transplants among Hispanic and African American populations is disproportionately high.
9. Transplant recipients inherit personality traits from their donor.
10. Only a blood relative can donate a kidney to someone waiting for a kidney transplant.





## Teacher Resource

### **TALKING POINTS: The Waiting List**

#### **1. Why do you think that close to 100 Americans die every week waiting for a transplant?**

The number of the people on the waiting list far outweighs the number of donated organs available.

10. Less than 1% of the population passes away under the specific conditions necessary to donate organs.
11. Improvements in motor vehicle safety, and a decrease in viable organs in younger generations, due to inactive lifestyles and poor diets, further shrink the pool of potential organ donors.
12. The number of living kidney donors remains fairly flat. Fears and misconceptions about the ability to donate a kidney include: impact on lifespan, impact on ability to have children, expense.

#### **2. What do you think is the hardest part of being on the waiting list for an organ?**

You may wish to prompt students to think about the impact waiting has

13. On the patient's daily routine, family, school, work
14. On the family and friends of the patient.
15. On the patient, if they live in a rural area or must move to another city or state to wait

#### **3. Why might families who are approached about donating their loved one's organs and tissues say no?**

Answers will vary. People are afraid, and most have never been exposed to education about donation, have gleaned inaccurate information from Hollywood or media portrayals, or learned about it a very long time ago, when the science was less advanced. Common fears and misunderstandings about donation include:

- that doctors will not save their life,
- that they are too old or not healthy enough to donate,
- that there is a black market for organs in the United States,



- that a person can recover from brain death,
- that donation is against their religion.

Additionally, if someone has not registered as a donor, a grieving family may not remember, or may never have discussed, what their loved one wanted.

#### **4. What can we do to help decrease the size of the waiting list for organs?**

Educate people about the need for organ and tissue donation and the positive impact it can make on someone else's life. Register as a donor, online or at the DMV. If you have a family history or predisposition for hypertension or Type II Diabetes, educate yourself about preventative measures you can take to care for your kidneys.

### **TEACHER MASTER:**

#### **FACT OR FICTION? ORGAN AND TISSUE DONATION**

1. **Doctors won't try to save your life if they learn that you are an organ and tissue donor. FICTION.** Medical staff does everything they can to save someone's life. They do not know if you are a donor because they do not have access to the confidential Donor Registry. It is only *after* every attempt has been made to save your life that a completely separate team of organ, eye and tissue donation specialists is called in to consider donation options. Only this team has access to the Donor Registry.
2. **Elderly people can't be donors – you have to be young and healthy. FICTION.** Age does not disqualify anyone from being a donor. In fact, having a history of medical illness does not necessarily disqualify you from being a donor, either. Even if someone cannot donate organs, they may be able to donate corneas or tissue. Donation specialists can only determine what can be donated at the time of death. People of all ages should consider themselves potential donors.
3. **Most major religions support donation. FACT.** Most major religions, with the exception of Shinto and some Native American religions, support donation for transplant, considering it either an expression of love for your neighbor or as a personal decision.
4. **Being an organ or tissue donor disfigures the body. FICTION.** Donation recovery is a type of surgery. After surgery, the body is put back together with care – the process does not disfigure the body or change the way it looks in a casket. Every donor is treated with great care and dignity during the recovery process, including careful reconstruction. Donation does not delay or prevent any type of funeral service.
5. **You can make a lot of money in the United States by selling a kidney. FICTION.** Buying and selling organs for the purpose of transplantation is illegal in the United States. Under the Uniform Anatomical Act of 1984, human organs cannot be bought or sold, and violators are





subject to fines and imprisonment. Medically speaking, illegal sales are not possible in the United States because recovered organs must be appropriately matched to recipients and distributed according to national policy, established by the United Network of Organ Sharing.

6. **Organ donation is expensive, and burdens a grieving family with a lot of medical bills. FICTION.** Donation costs nothing to the donor's family. Organ and tissue donation is a gift. All costs and expenses incurred after your death and related to donation through the recovery of organs, eyes and tissues will be the responsibility of the recovery agency. Medical costs not related to donation, and funeral costs are the responsibility of your estate.
7. **Rich and famous people in need of an organ transplant get preferential treatment, and don't have to wait as long as "regular" people. FICTION.** The United Network of Organ Sharing's waiting list identifies people by an ID number, not their name – it is a 'blind' list. Blood type, height and weight, geography, and medical urgency are determining factors in who receives a transplant. Factors such as race, gender, and income or celebrity status do not determine who receives a transplant.
8. **The need for kidney transplants among Hispanic and African American populations is disproportionately high. FACT.** High incidences of conditions such as high blood pressure or diabetes, both of which can lead to the eventual need for a kidney transplant, are disproportionately high among Hispanic and African American populations.
9. **Transplant recipients inherit personality traits from their donor. FICTION.** Receiving a donated organ is a powerful and life-changing experience on many levels: physical, emotional, and social. While many films and TV shows use this motif in order to dramatize the impact of transplantation, there is no science to support the notion that an individual's personality or habits can be transmitted within an organ!
10. **Only a blood relative can donate a kidney to someone waiting for a kidney transplant. FICTION.** While the best tissue match often is someone of the same ethnic background as the recipient, a living kidney donor does not need to be biologically related to the recipient. They can be blood relatives, spouses, friends, acquaintances or a stranger. What matters is that the individual is healthy, educated about their decision, and a compatible blood and tissue type match.





## WAITING FOR A SECOND CHANCE

### Questions for Reading Comprehension:

- Approximately how many Americans are waiting for an organ transplant? Approximately how many people are waiting for a kidney transplant?
- Does everyone who needs an organ transplant get one? Why or why not?
- Which eight organs can be donated?
- Name three kinds of tissue that can be donated.
- What differences exist between organ and tissue donation?
- What are some of the problems that put certain ethnic groups at a higher health risk than others?
- Imagine you are a doctor or nurse talking to a sick patient about the possibility of adding them to the national waiting list. Explain what it is and how it works.
- What efforts have been made to ensure that the U.S. database matches donated organs with recipients in the fairest way possible?

### THINK CRITICALLY:

- How do you feel about organ, eye and tissue donation?
- Do you think organ and tissue donation is a good or a bad thing? Explain.
- Do you feel that you know enough about organ, eye and tissue donation to make a logical and educated decision about it? What about your family?
- If you were diagnosed as needing a lifesaving organ transplant, would you accept a donation from someone who has passed away? Why or why not?
- How would you feel if a loved one were placed on the waiting list for an organ transplant? What could you do to show your support for them?
- Reflect on a time you've heard about organ donation is television or film. Was the portrayal positive or negative?
- Assess whether someone with chronic alcoholism is likely to be placed on the waiting list. Defend your opinion.
- Can you see a possible solution to the rising need for organ, especially kidney, transplants?
- If applicable, what is your faith's stance on donation?



- Go online to research two conditions that cause someone to need an organ transplant.
- Go online to research how socioeconomic factors can impact health.

Adapted from "Go Recycle Me" Donate Life Northwest



## Day 1 Lesson HW:

Person Being Interviewed \_\_\_\_\_

\*I decline to discuss this issue \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent Signature Required)

What do you know about Organ Donation? (Myths, Facts, Stories)

How do feel about Organ Donation? (Preconceived Notions, Religious Beliefs)

Are you a registered Organ Donor?                      Yes                      No

If yes, why?

If no, why?