



How should organ recipients be chosen?

GETTING ORIENTED

The weekly passage mentions issues related to the donation of human organs. Here is some information that might be helpful to students less familiar with the topic.

Organ Donors

To be organ donors, people must sign papers that say, in the event of their death, they are willing to have doctors remove their healthy organs to be used by patients who need them. Many people carry a card or have a mark on their driver's license that says they are willing to donate or give their organs to someone else. This came about because sometimes very healthy people are killed, like in car accidents. An ambulance staff member or someone who knows the procedure to protect the organs must act quickly to preserve the organs. A single donor can save as many as eight lives with the different organs in their body. The most commonly transplanted organs are kidneys, liver, heart, pancreas, lungs, and small intestine.



Organ Transplant Success

When organs are transplanted from one body to another, there are many things to consider to make sure the surgery works. Blood tissue tests are done to try to find a patient and a donor that have similar blood types. The more ways that the body types match, the greater possibility there is for success. Since the 1990s, the number of organ transplants in the U.S. has more than doubled. The rate of transplant success and patient survival has also gone up. Doctors and researchers are working all the time to improve techniques for organ transplants.



Organ Recipients

There is a national policy in place to determine who will receive a donated organ, using a computer program that looks at several factors: First, the organ must be a good match with the patient based on body size and blood type. Second, the system considers how urgently a patient needs the donated organ. How long can he or she survive without a transplant? It also matters how long the patient has been on the waiting list to receive a donated organ. Finally, the system looks at how far away patients are from the donor. Organs can only survive a limited amount of time outside the body before they can no longer be used, so the time it takes to get to the transplant patient is very important. The heart and lungs, for instance, can only be kept for 4-6 hours before they are transplanted.

The Immune System and Organ Rejection

The immune system is a natural defense system in the body that protects us by fighting disease and infection. This system develops antibodies that destroy foreign substances, such as bacteria. Because donor organs do not exactly match an individual body type, the immune system may try to rid the body of the new organ. This process is called "rejection." The body rejects the new organ because it mistakenly confuses the organ as something negative to the overall body function.



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EVIDENCE AND PERSPECTIVES

	<i>Some may have this view:</i>	<i>But others may think:</i>
Donors	Organ donors may feel very strongly about who should receive their organs, as they want to feel like they are doing something important. They might like to have a say in who receives the organ they are donating. They may wish the organs would go to individuals who are young, who have families, or who are famous.	Organ donors usually agree to give their organs knowing they will never have any control over who receives them. They choose to give their organs to help humanity in general. They trust that doctors and researchers will make appropriate decisions about how organs are distributed.
Doctors	There are some doctors who would like to see organ transplant more like a commercial business, so they could do these operations for the highest bidders. Before the National Organ Transplant Act of 1984, it was not illegal to sell one's organs. Other doctors may want the most deserving or important recipients to receive organs. They may not want donated organs to go to criminals.	Many doctors would agree that their job is to keep people alive and that all lives are worth saving. They use their medical training to figure out which patients most need an organ transplant and which are the most likely to have a successful transplant with the donated organ.
Organ recipients	People who are near death because of organ failure might be interested in using any influence they can to persuade doctors that their need is greater than someone else. A very wealthy person, for example, might be willing to donate money to a hospital or to research if they could be moved up on the waiting list. They may feel that their donated money would help a lot more people, so they should be moved up the list.	Many people who are waiting for organ transplants believe that everyone has an equal right to life. They appreciate that the process has saved many people as it now stands and don't think recipients should be chosen based on anything except their medical need and match with the organs.

Additional Information

- ✓ More than 114,000 adults and children are currently on the waiting list for life-saving organ transplants.
 - ✓ An average of 20 people die each day from the lack of available organs for transplant.
 - ✓ In 2017, there were 10,281 deceased organ donors and 6,181 living organ donors, resulting in 34,770 organ transplants.
 - ✓ 95% of Americans say they support donation, but only 54% of adults are signed up to be donors.
 - ✓ Organs can be transplanted while the donor is alive. Kidneys are the most common organs to be transplanted from a living donor because we only need one kidney to live.
 - ✓ At the University of Kansas Hospital, 90.3% of the liver transplant operations were successful even 1 year after the transplant. The overall statistics at all hospitals in the U.S. for liver transplants is 89.2%.
 - ✓ The National Organ Transplant Act of 1984, which was amended in 1988 and 1990, outlawed the sale of human organs and provided for the establishment of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network.
- Organ Donation Statistics
organdonor.gov/statistics-stories/statistics.html
- Organ Donation Recipients
<https://www.dmv.org/organ-donation/how-recipients-are-chosen.php>
- Organ Allocation
<https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/learn/about-transplantation/how-organ-allocation-works/>



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ANNOTATIONS FOR TEACHERS

Features of Academic Text: Signal words and phrases

Academic writing contains signal words and phrases that indicate a shift in direction to the reader. These can cause confusion for many students.

The word “however” in the fourth paragraph indicates to the reader that there is a contrasting idea.

“I did my homework. However, my parents think I need to work harder!”

In this passage, there are other signal words that indicate to the reader a contrasting idea or point of view.

- ▶ *While*
- ▶ *But*

Words and phrases not in the passage include:

- ▶ *On the other hand*
- ▶ *Although*
- ▶ *Meanwhile*
- ▶ *Rather*
- ▶ *Yet*
- ▶ *Instead of*

Healthy organs are valuable **commodities**. Each year, thousands of Americans die waiting for organ transplants. In the United States, healthy organs are given to the sickest people whose bodies are still strong enough to adapt to new organs. They are not necessarily given to the people who have waited the longest.

But in 2001, Tadamasa Goto, a gang leader in Japan, came to the United States for a liver transplant at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Medical Center. His gang, a Yakuza gang called the Goto-gumi, is said to engage in theft, blackmail, assault, and even murder. Soon after he received the transplant that saved his life, Goto returned to Japan.

Later, the media reported that Goto had agreed to provide information to the FBI, allowing him to skip the wait list and receive a new liver. Many people were shocked and angry. They feel that the hospital should have denied Goto a new liver because of his criminal activities. Some people also believe organs should not go to non-Americans. American taxpayers help fund American hospitals, so they believe that these hospitals should help Americans first.

However, others think the hospital acted correctly. They believe that all patients have the same medical rights, including Goto. They do not want medical **practitioners to evaluate** whether patients are good or bad people. Many

religions and belief systems say that each person has **intrinsic** value, no matter who they are or what they have done. Doctors try to honor this intrinsic value by treating all sick people, even criminals, with equal care and respect.

Additionally, people who support Goto's transplant remind us that no one can accurately predict how a person will act in the future. **While** we might **infer** from Goto's past behavior that he will continue his criminal activities, no one knows for sure. Similarly, some people object to giving alcoholics liver transplants, arguing that they will just ruin their new livers by going back to drinking. **But** maybe they won't.

Interestingly, people born outside the United States donate about 20% of the UCLA Medical Center's healthy organs. According to a UCLA doctor, denying transplants to foreigners could discourage these donations. Over 95% of the hospital's healthy organs are given to Americans. What do you think? How should recipients of healthy organs be decided?



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GENERATING WORDS

Word Parts (Roots and Prefixes)



Remember: Roots and prefixes are parts of the word that help you figure out what the whole word means. Here are some examples of word parts found in this week's focus words.

Word Parts	Meaning	Examples
<i>in</i>	within, into	We learned about our internal organs in science class.
<i>fer</i>	to bring or carry	I offered to help my friend study for the science test.
<i>com/con</i>	together	I play soccer at the community center by my house.
<i>val/valu</i>	strength, worth	Because of hurricane damage, the value of our car went down.

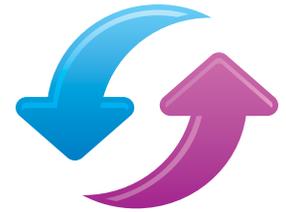
With a partner, discuss how the word parts in the chart above can be used to help figure out the meaning of a word. Can you think of other words that have the roots or prefixes?

For example:

"The word part **in-** helps us to understand that **internal** organs are **inside**, or within, the body."

The focus word **infer** is made up of two of these word parts. When we read a story, we infer many things. For example, sometimes a protagonist or main character in a story will say mean things about another character who is more popular than he or she is. The reader has to infer that the protagonist is jealous!

 Can you use your new knowledge of word parts help you to figure out the meaning of the word **infer**?



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DEVELOPING DISCUSSIONS

Survey Grid

The survey grid is a matrix you can use to poll one another on issues. You get to hear similar ideas several times, reinforcing your thinking and vocabulary.

Name of student	<i>Should doctors get to decide who gets organ transplants?</i>	<i>Should there be a law that requires organs to go to people who live in the U.S. only?</i>	<i>Should there be a law that gives priority to patients who do not have a criminal record?</i>
sample Zhong	No. Doctors should have to follow rules set by the government. They might be bribed with money.	Yes. There are too many people in this country who need organs and can't get them.	No. All people living in the U.S. should be given equal consideration.
Results	Yes: No:	Yes: No:	Yes: No:

Step One: Fill in each row on the survey grid by talking to one person at a time. Try to talk to as many people as possible or until you fill in all the empty rows. Paraphrase their responses. If they use a focus word, write it down in the box.

Step Two: Count how many students said "Yes" or "No" for each question. Fill in your totals at the bottom of the grid.

Step Three: Write a sentence or two in the box to the right that explains what your survey showed. Here are a few sentence frames you can use:

- ➔ The results of my survey show that _____.
- ➔ The majority of the responses to my survey show _____. The reasons people gave for this are _____.
- ➔ The results of my survey suggest that the majority of students are for/against _____. Reasons for this include _____.

Step Four: Report your findings to your classmates.