



Additional student card

Not sure how you feel or what to say?

Thinking about the big questions below may help you sort out your ideas. Take the time to just really weigh up your honest response. No one is right or wrong. Everyone has a right to their own opinion.

I think giving blood and organs is a good idea but it's dangerous. Diseases can get passed on.

- How do you know it's dangerous – where is the evidence?
- Is it really because the idea scares you?
- Donors are carefully screened to reduce the risk of disease being transmitted.

I don't see why I should have to tell my family that I want to donate after I die. It's my body and my decision.

- True – but under UK laws, your next-of-kin would be automatically consulted to make sure you hadn't changed your mind.
- If you haven't discussed it with them, they may not understand how important it was to you.
- Not enough people talk about their wishes and the number of families saying no has become one of the biggest obstacles to increasing donation.

I think giving blood is a good idea, I just hate needles.

- Is it because you think it hurts?
- Is it because you just don't like the thought of it?

Donating bone marrow can mean a general anaesthetic and a stay in hospital. I shouldn't have to risk my health for someone else.

- What level of risk would you take to help a stranger?
- Would you take greater risks to help someone you love?

I understand that donating tissue or organs after you die can save someone's life, but I don't think it's nature's way.

- Are you sure you're not just repeating what you've heard other people say?
- Maybe you just need more time to think about it.
- Advances are taking place in health care all the time. Where would we be if we did not take advantage of the progress that is being made?
- Is it that you don't like the thought of someone touching your body after you die?

Everyone should automatically have to be a bone marrow or organ donor unless they have signed up to opt out.

- How might this improve the chances of someone finding a 'match' for bone marrow or organs?
- How could the rule be enforced?
- What would this say about a person's right to choose what to do with their body in life or after death?

If people smoke, drink or take drugs, they shouldn't be allowed to receive blood, bone marrow or organs – in fact, anything donated by others.

- Why should it matter how a person became ill? Curing them is the point.
- Who would make a decision like that?
- Would this have any impact on people's lifestyles – would it make them give up smoking and drinking, for example?

Murderers and other serious criminals should not be allowed to receive bone marrow or organs.

- How might the parent of a child desperately in need of a bone marrow or organ transplant feel if a convicted murderer received treatment before them?
- What sort of impact, if any, would it have on crime?
- The criminal is already being punished – they shouldn't be punished twice.

