

Review each of the common donation vocabulary words.

Organ and tissue donor – Someone who died and was able to donate organs to save up to eight lives and donate tissue to provide healing to up to 75 people.

Transplant waiting list - The national list of people waiting for a lifesaving organ transplant. Over 110,000 people are awaiting a lifesaving transplant.

Recipient - A person who receives the gift of an organ or tissue transplant from a donor hero. A recipient is given a second chance to walk, dance, travel and even run again.

As a class, with a partner or individually, read each of the statements below, then decide if each statement is true or false.

- First responders, emergency room staff and all health care providers will make every effort to save the life of a patient. Organ and tissue donation only happens after all lifesaving efforts have been exhausted, and death has been legally declared.
- You are never too young, too old or too unhealthy to sign up to be an organ donor. Don't rule yourself out to sign up as a donor, but rather leave it to medical professionals at the time of your death to determine if your organs and tissue are viable for transplant.
- Parents will make the final decision for minors under 18 who become potential donors. The utilization of organs depends on the health of the organ, not necessarily the age of the donor.
- Rich and famous people do not get moved to the top of the transplant waiting list. Things like the severity of illness, time on the waitlist and blood type match are some of the main factors that determine a person's place on the waitlist.
- Most major religions support organ donation. Some leave it to personal choice, and others view it as an act of charity and goodwill.
- There is no cost to the family associated with the recovery or removal of organs and tissue from their loved ones for use through transplantation.
- It is illegal to buy or sell organs in the United States. Matching donors and recipients is a highly complex procedure that requires trained medical professionals and thorough testing.
- Organ and tissue donor families can have a traditional open-casket funeral. The organ procurement organization treats each donor with the utmost respect and dignity.

Individually, as a class or as a writing activity, discuss/read and respond to each of the following questions.

- If you were sick and needed an organ transplant to survive, would you accept a donated organ? How would you feel?
- Do you think organ transplants are a good thing or a bad thing? Why?
- Would you allow the organs of a loved one to be donated after they die?
- Would you donate a kidney to save the life of a friend? A family member? A stranger?
- If you could ask a donor family member or a transplant recipient any question(s), what would you want to ask them? (Examples: How long were you on the transplant waiting list? Why did you need an organ transplant?)