

# EUGENICS

## Lesson Plan: Button or Bumper Sticker

**Objective:** Students will understand that the eugenics movement had good intentions but had variable outcomes and policies regarding people with disabilities.

**Materials:** Art Supplies  
Button or Bumper Sticker Worksheet  
Common Good Chart  
Website pages



**Vocabulary:**

advocated	degeneracy	incentive	racism
anthropological	deranged	incurred	radical
asylum	dominance	inheritability	rationale
biological	evolution	legislation	repercussions
breeding	feeble-minded	Mongoloids	sterilization
Caucasians	genetics	moral traits	superiority
codified	heredity	nativism	unconstitutional
compulsory	heroine	pauperism	
defects	idiot	philosopher	

### New York State Learning Standards:

SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York  
SS Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship and Government  
Health Standard 2: A Safe and Healthy Environment  
ELA Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding  
ELA Standard 3: Language for Critical Analysis and Evaluation  
Arts Standard 1: Creating, Performing and Participating

### Procedure:

1. The teacher should view the Eugenics section of the Society wing of the website for background information.
2. Selections from the website can be viewed by the students online or copies of those pages can be printed for student use.
3. Discuss the notion of fear as a motivator. Ask students if they have ever done something or avoided something due to fear. Give some examples like John Madden, NFL sportscaster who will not fly on an airplane. Mention rules in society or in school that are restrictions due to fear. (no smoking, speed limits.) Have class give more examples.
4. In what way are these restrictions often for the common good? Discuss with class.
5. Discuss the idea of restrictions and laws versus the common good. Should the government legislate for the common good? Agree or disagree.
6. Have students complete the Common Good Chart. Share their findings with the class. When finished discuss the idea of eugenics in relation to the common good.
7. Have students create a button or bumper sticker using the template that summarizes the notion that a fear of people with disabilities is an irrational idea.

**Closure/Ticket out the door:** Why do we fear what is different?

For historical accuracy and to illustrate changing views of society, words and language used in different eras are part of the website and lessons. No offense is intended toward people with disabilities, their families or advocates.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## COMMON GOOD CHART

There are many rules, laws and restrictions that are based on fears. Sometimes these are for the protection of the common good. Fill in the chart below following the headings at the top of each column. There is an example on the chart for you.

<b>Rule/law/restriction</b>	<b>Fear of</b>	<b>The Common Good</b>
1. <i>speed limits</i>	<i>drivers losing control</i>	<i>protection of others</i>
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



### Button or Bumper Sticker's Slogan Worksheet

Create a button or a bumper sticker with a slogan that summarizes the idea that fear of people with disabilities is an irrational idea. Your work should reflect the following criteria:

- Catchy slogan that summarizes the idea
- Creative artwork and design
- Message encourages acceptance of people with disabilities vs. fear

