

CURES

Lesson Plan: Human Barometer

Objective: Students will be able to examine the various treatments used to help people with disabilities.
Students will analyze whether or not these treatments were appropriate for people with disabilities.

Materials: Human Barometer Worksheet
Website pages



Vocabulary: Autism chromosome vaccine
Cerebral Palsy Polio

New York State Learning Standards:

ELA Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding
ELA Standard 2: Language for Literary Response and Expression
ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction
SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York State

Procedure:

1. The teacher should view the Cures section of the Medicine wing of the website to gain background information.
2. Selections from the website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.
3. The teacher will give the Human Barometer Worksheet to the class and explain how to use it.
4. The teacher will cite several controversial treatments that have been used for people with disabilities. Students will physically move to the front of the room where a continuum has been placed and stand in the place which best represents their position on the continuum. (Continuum should range from completely agree → somewhat agree → no opinion → somewhat disagree → completely disagree)
5. Some of the controversial treatment statements should include:
 - Should people with disabilities be placed in straitjackets?
 - Should doctors use people with disabilities for medical experimentation?
 - Should severely disabled babies be allowed to die?
 - Should people with disabilities be sterilized to prevent the birth of “unfit children?”
 - Should cloning be an option to cleanse society from all defects?
6. Students will justify their viewpoint using specific information from the website.

Closure/Ticket out the door: Did any of your viewpoints change after completing the Human Barometer Activity? If so, how? Why?

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 _____

Human Barometer Worksheet

Directions: Read the statements below and draw a line to express your opinion on each statement.

Issue: Should people with disabilities be placed in straitjackets?

Δ-----Δ
Agree Disagree

Your Rationale:

Issue: Should doctors use people with disabilities for medical experimentation?

Δ-----Δ
Agree Disagree

Your Rationale:

Issue: Should severely disabled babies be allowed to die?

Δ-----Δ
Agree Disagree

Your Rationale:

Issue: Should people with disabilities be sterilized to prevent the birth of “unfit children”?

Δ-----Δ
Agree Disagree

Your Rationale:

Issue: Should cloning be an option to cleanse society from all defects?

Δ-----Δ
Agree Disagree

Your Rationale: