

## Beliefs About Vaccinations

This activity asks you to analyze debates about vaccinations using a framework that pushes beyond your own opinions. You will work with a framework that asks you to think about the following three aspects of ethical decision-making:

- Me—How will this affect me? What will it require of me? What are my biases?
- Neighbor—How will this affect others? How is loving my neighbor involved?
- Knowledge—What do significant sources of relevant knowledge, including science and theology, have to say on this issue?



Keep these components in mind as you read the following articles and answer the questions that follow:

## Article #1: The Christian Case for Vaccinating Your Kids

(Time/Pathos) (<http://time.com/3698055/christian-case-vaccinating-kids/>)

Summarize the article in 2-3 sentences. What viewpoint is the author communicating?

What type of argument is the author of this article using (me, neighbor, science/theology)? Explain how this is evident.

What did you think of the article? How carefully does it use science and/or theology?

What are two interesting things you learned from the article?

What is one thing that surprised you?

## Article #2: Thank God for Vaccines

(Christianity Today/hermeneutics) (<http://www.christianitytoday.com/women/2014/june/thank-god-for-vaccines.html?paging=off>)

Summarize the article in 2-3 sentences. What viewpoint is the author communicating?

What type of argument is the author of this article using (me, neighbor, science/theology)? Explain how this is evident.

What did you think of the article? How carefully does it use science and/or theology?

What are two interesting things you learned from the article?

What is one thing that surprised you?

## Article #3: Know the Risks and Failures

(<http://www.nvic.org/vaccines-and-diseases/Vaccinations--Know-the-risks-and-failures-.aspx>) Used with permission from the National Vaccine Information Center.

Summarize the article in 2-3 sentences. What viewpoint is the author communicating?

What type of argument is the author of this article using (me, neighbor, science/theology)? Explain how this is evident.

What did you think of the article? How carefully does it use science and/or theology?

What are two interesting things you learned from the article?

What is one thing that surprised you?

## Article #4: Vaccines – the Moral Right to Exemption

(<http://www.nvic.org/informed-consent.aspx>) Used with permission from the National Vaccine Information Center.

Summarize the article in 2-3 sentences. What viewpoint is the author communicating?

What type of argument is the author of this article using (me, neighbor, science/theology)? Explain how this is evident.

What did you think of the article? How carefully does it use science and/or theology?

What are two interesting things you learned from the article?

What is one thing that surprised you?

## Reflection Questions:

Please answer the following questions. You may need to do some additional research in order to adequately respond to the “science” section of each question.

### 1. Do you support vaccinations for children?

Me—How will this affect me? If I just think about how this affects me, would I support it? What are my biases?

Neighbor—How will this affect others in my community? We are called by God to not only think of ourselves, but to also think about our neighbors. If I think about how this affects my community, would I support it?

Knowledge—What do science and theology have to say about vaccinations for children? If I take this into account, would I support vaccinations?

### 2. Most school districts require students to be vaccinated in order to attend school. Do you support mandatory vaccines for school attendance?

Me—How will this affect me? If I just think about how this affects me, would I support it?

Neighbor—How will this affect others in my community? We are called by God to not only think of ourselves, but to also think about our neighbors. If I think about how this affects my community, would I support it?

Knowledge—What do science and theology have to say about vaccinations for children? If I take this into account, would I support mandatory vaccinations?

**3. Some parents do not want to vaccinate their children—for a variety of reasons—and want to be able to be exempt from mandatory vaccinations. Are there any reasons why exemptions should be allowed? Are there specific situations where this might be allowed and situations where this might not be allowed? Why or why not?**

Me—How will this affect me? If I just think about how this affects me, would I support exemptions for vaccinations? (Never, always, or just in some situations? Explain.)

Neighbor—How will this affect others in my community? We are called by God to not only think of ourselves, but to also think about our neighbors. If I think about how this affects my community, would I support it?

Knowledge—What do science and theology have to say about vaccinations for children? If I take this into account, would I support exemptions? (Never, always, or just in some situations? Explain.)