Teacher Information
6th Grade Unit. Activity 1: “Organ Donation”

Suggested time period:
One or two 45-minute periods or one 90-minute block.
Note: Students who need extra help with the math skills/graphing portion of the activity will likely require more than one 45-minute period.

Prerequisite math skills:
Collecting data
Making a double bar graph

Math activities that correlate with this activity:
• Comparison Graphs – see supplemental activities

Materials:
VHS video tape “Flow” (16 minutes)
TV and VCR
Graph paper

Discussion questions for video:
Excerpted from the “Flow Education Kit” produced by the James Redford Institute
• Why is the film called “Flow”? 
• What is the symbolism of Jason handing his jacket to Damon in Damon’s dream? 
• Why was Jason’s brother so troubled by donation? 
• Why did Marcus want to meet Damon? 
• Why did Damon agree to meet Marcus? 
• What objections might a family have towards donating the organs/tissues of a loved one? 
• What if it had been their parent or sibling? 
• What if the student had been the recipient? 
• Has anyone in the class had a transplant? Does anyone know anyone who has had an organ transplant? Is there anything you can tell the class based on your experience? 
• How might medical experts decide who should get organs if there are not enough? 
• Why should a teenager care about this issue?

Optional extensions and substitutions:
• Show a clip from John Q with Denzel Washington playing the father of a child who needs a heart transplant.
• Invite a guest speaker from the local speakers bureau of the Donor Alliance [http://www.donoralliance.org/](http://www.donoralliance.org/)
• Have students construct graphs using Excel on computers.
• Have students conduct a survey of opinions of friends and family members on organ donation.
Compare data from different classes to demonstrate the concept of variation in data.

**Learning goals:**
After completing this exercise students be able to:
- Express their opinions about organ donation.
- Construct and interpret a column graph or histogram from data.

**Additional Resources:**
United States government website on organ and tissue transplants and donation
http://www.organdonor.gov
Donor Alliance – Colorado-based organization that can provide guest speakers in the Denver area
http://www.donoralliance.org/
Donor Awareness Council – Colorado-based organization that holds student poster contest
http://www.donor-awareness.org/index.html