

# Body Investigators: The Activation Code

(Year 5 - Ages 10-11):

## Lesson 5 of 9

### Teacher Preparation

#### Introduction for Teachers

This lesson is a pivotal "level-up" from Year 4, adapting the senior curriculum's "Having the Conversation" theme. In Year 4, we used the magical metaphor of "The Hero's Echo." In Year 5, as "Body Investigators," we reframe this as a logical and critical part of the scientific process: "The Activation Code."

Students have investigated the "what" (Organs vs. Tissues) and the "how" (The Process Pathway). This lesson investigates the single most important step that starts that pathway. The goal is for students to discover why the family conversation is the essential human "key" that unlocks the entire scientific process, and to understand the powerful evidence (the 8/10 vs 4/10 statistic) that proves why it's so important.

### Safety and Sensitivity Considerations

- This is NOT a "Go Home and Talk" lesson: This is the most important rule. You are not instructing 10-year-olds to go home and have this conversation. You are leading a scientific investigation into why the conversation is the most critical component of the process.
- Focus on the Evidence (The Fact): The 8/10 vs. 4/10 statistic is a powerful, non-emotional tool. Use it. It frames the conversation as a logical solution to a problem (the family's uncertainty), which is perfect for this age group.
- Empathy for the Family: The tone of this lesson must be one of profound empathy and respect for the family. The "Activation Code" (the conversation) is presented as a gift to them, to remove the burden of guessing.
- Use the Established Metaphors: Stick to the positive, safe language: "Hero's Pledge," "Hero's Echo," "Process Pathway," "Helping Hero family," "passed away."

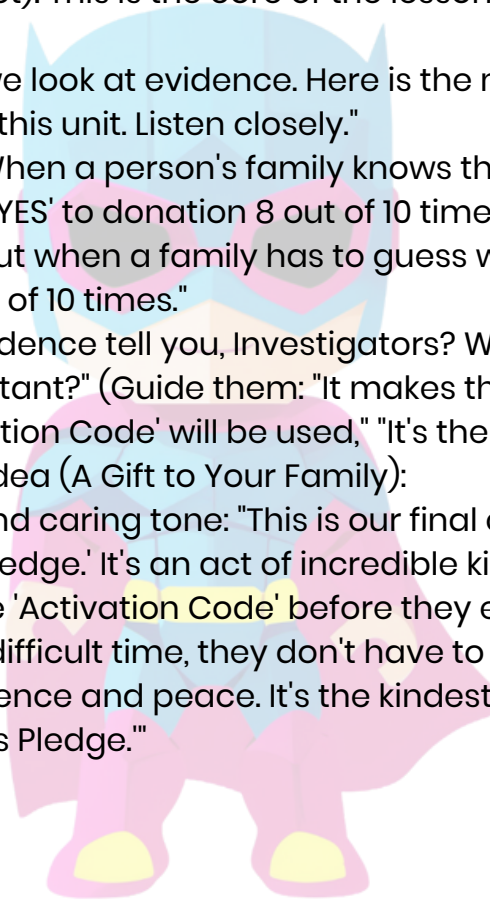
### Teacher Resources

- A "Top Secret Investigator" envelope.
- Resource: "The Locked Case File" (A 1-page story of a person waiting for a transplant, but the process is "locked").
- Resource: "The Activation Code" (A simple cipher or puzzle that, when solved, reveals the key message: "It all starts with a family conversation" or "Your family's 'yes' is the key").
- Student Worksheet: "The 'Activation Code' Report."
- A prop "key" or "keycard" (optional hook).



## Key Concepts & Language for Teachers

- The "Activation Code" Metaphor: This is the central, logical theme.
  - Say: "Okay, Investigators. We've mapped the 'Process Pathway' for organs and tissues. But we discovered that pathway is locked. It cannot start on its own. It requires a special, human 'key' or an 'Activation Code.' Today, our mission is to investigate that code."
- Defining the "Code" (The Family's "Yes"):
  - Say: "In Australia, the entire, amazing scientific process—the 'Helping Hero Team,' the 'Super-Mechanics'—can only begin after one thing happens. The 'Helping Hero's' family must give their permission. They must say 'yes.' That family conversation, and their 'yes,' is the 'Activation Code.'"
- The "Evidence" (The Key Fact): This is the core of the lesson for 10–11 year olds. It's the "why" behind the "Hero's Echo."
  - Say: "As investigators, we look at evidence. Here is the most important piece of evidence we will see in this unit. Listen closely."
  - (Write on the board): "When a person's family knows their loved one's kind wish (their 'Hero's Echo'), they say 'YES' to donation 8 out of 10 times."
  - (Write on the board): "But when a family has to guess what their loved one wanted, they only say 'yes' 4 out of 10 times."
  - Ask: "What does this evidence tell you, Investigators? Why is the 'Hero's Echo' (the conversation) so important?" (Guide them: "It makes the family's job easier," "It makes it more likely the 'Activation Code' will be used," "It's the only way to be sure.")
- Connecting to the Bigger Idea (A Gift to Your Family):
  - Say with a respectful and caring tone: "This is our final clue. The 'Hero's Echo' (sharing your wish) isn't just a 'pledge.' It's an act of incredible kindness and trust for your family. It gives them the 'Activation Code' before they ever need it. It means that during a very sad and difficult time, they don't have to guess. They can honour your heroic wish with confidence and peace. It's the kindest, most responsible, and most loving part of the 'Hero's Pledge.'"



## Magical Body Facts for Year 5 (Ages 10-11)

- **Brain Power (Organ):** Your brain, an organ, is the most complex thing in the known universe. It has over 86 billion nerve cells, creating more connections than there are stars in our galaxy.
- **Your Skin Shield (Tissue):** Your skin is your body's largest organ (though it's also a collection of tissues!). You shed about 30,000 to 40,000 dead skin cells every minute. You get a whole new "shield" about once a month!
- **The Liver's "Superpower" (Organ):** The liver is a "super-machine" with over 500 jobs, from cleaning your blood to storing energy. It's also the only organ that can regenerate—it can regrow itself!
- **The See-Through Window (Tissue):** Your cornea (the "window" of your eye) is one of the only tissues in your body that has no blood vessels at all. It gets its oxygen directly from the air! This is one reason it can be transplanted so successfully.
- **A Bone "Factory" (Tissue/Organ):** Your bones are not just "scaffolding" material; they are also living "factories." The marrow inside your large bones produces over 2 million new red blood cells every second.
- **Heart's Electrical Team (Organ):** Your heart is so powerful it has its own electrical system (like a built-in 'team') that tells it to beat. This is why a heart can continue to beat for a short time even when separated from the body.
- **The "Spare Part" We Can Give Twice (Organ):** A person can donate a whole kidney (one of their "spare machines") while they are still alive to help a family member or friend.

