

The Alchemist's Choice: The Ethical Pledge

(Year 7 - Ages 12-13)

Lesson 6 of 9

Lesson Summary

In Lesson 5, students learned that their Voice is the catalyst. In Lesson 6, they explore the Action behind that voice. This 60-minute lesson investigates the ethical difference between "Opt-in" (Active Choice) and "Opt-out" (Passive Default) systems.

Using the metaphor of "The Alchemist's Pledge," students will engage in a "Community Choice Challenge" where they must decide the rules for a hypothetical new school club. This simulation reveals that an active choice (Pledge) carries more weight and certainty than a passive one. Students will then apply this to the Australian context, understanding that our system relies on people actively stepping up to say "Yes," making every donor a volunteer hero.

Learning Intentions

Students will

- Understand the difference between "Opt-in" (Active Choice) and "Opt-out" (Presumed Consent) systems.
- Investigate the Australian donation system and why it requires an active decision (The Pledge).
- Analyze the ethical weight of making a promise versus just "going with the flow."
- Connect the concept of the "Pledge" to the importance of family certainty (Lesson 5).

Success Criteria

Students can

- Define "Opt-in" and "Opt-out" using a simple analogy (e.g., signing up for a sports team).
- Explain why an active "Yes" (Pledge) makes it easier for a family to agree than a passive "Maybe."
- Create a personal "Ethical Pledge" listing three values they want to stand for (e.g., Kindness, Legacy, Generosity).
- Participate in a respectful debate about which system is "fairer."

Lesson Details

Time:	60 minutes
Year Level:	Year 7 (Ages 12-13)
Unit:	This is Lesson 6 of 9 in the series.
Educational Partner:	This lesson is adapted from resources provided by DonateLife

General Capabilities

Ethical Understanding; Critical and Creative Thinking; Personal and Social Capability; Civics and Citizenship.

Curriculum Mapping and Links

Australian Curriculum (v9.0)

Subject	Strand	Content Descriptor
Health and Physical Education	Personal, Social and Community Health	<u>AC9HP8P06</u> : ...Select and apply strategies to manage emotional responses and resolve conflict. (Focus on managing difficult conversations)
English	Literacy / Interacting	<u>AC9E7LY02</u> : Plan, create and edit... texts... to present a point of view. (Debating skills)
Civics and Citizenship (HASS)	Knowledge and Understanding	<u>AC9HS7K04</u> : Investigate how citizens can... contribute to the community... and how decisions are made. (Focus on consent systems)

Queensland Curriculum (QCAA)

Subject	Syllabus	Content Description
Health and Physical Education	Year 7	Strategies for making informed decisions.
English	Year 7	Creating texts that express a personal view or argument.
Civics and Citizenship (HASS)	Year 7	The importance of shared values and how decisions are made in a democracy.



Resources Required

- Whiteboard/Smartboard.
- Resource: "Scenario Cards: The Gaming Club" (Two cards: One describing an Opt-in club, one an Opt-out club).
- Student Worksheet: "The Alchemist's Choice: Decoding Systems."
- Prop (Optional): A "Scroll" or official-looking document to represent the Pledge.
- Voting Cards: Green (Opt-in) and Red (Opt-out) cards for the class debate.

Skills

- Ethical Reasoning (Evaluating fairness).
- Debating (Justifying an opinion).
- Systems Thinking (Understanding policy).
- Civic Literacy (Understanding rights and responsibilities).

Teacher Preparation

- The Metaphor: "The Pledge." Explain that an Alchemist doesn't stumble into magic; they commit to it. A Pledge is a promise.
- Key Concept: Be ready to explain the Australian system simply: We have a register where you can Opt-in. Some countries assume you want to donate unless you say no (Opt-out). Neither is "wrong," but they have different impacts on the family.
- The Link: Connect this lesson back to the "Catalyst" (L5). An Active Pledge is a stronger Catalyst for the family than a Passive Assumption.

Additional Information

This lesson tackles a complex ethical debate (Consent Models) often reserved for older students. By gamifying it with the "Gaming Club" scenario, we make the logic accessible to Year 7s without getting bogged down in legal jargon. It reinforces the idea that donation is a Gift, and gifts must be freely given.

