

The Black Box: Decoding the System

(Year 9 - Ages 14-15)

Lesson 3 of 9

Name: _____ Class: _____

Mission Briefing: An Alchemist must weigh the value of ingredients. A Society must weigh the value of life. Your mission is to "Hack" (analyze) the algorithm that decides who gets a transplant. You will face the "Trolley Problem" of medicine and decide: What is Fair?

Part 1: The Algorithm Analysis (The Criteria)

Fact: There is 1 Heart available. There are 3 patients.

The Rules: The Australian system DOES NOT look at money, fame, or job.

Task: Rank the criteria below from Most Important (1) to Least Important (5) in your opinion.

- Age (Younger = more years to live?)
- Waiting Time (First in line?)
- Urgency (Will die in 24 hours without it?)
- Medical Match (Will the body reject it?)
- Parental Status (Do they have kids depending on them?)

Reflection: Why did you put #1 first?



Part 2: The "Lifeboat" Simulation (Group Decision)

Scenario: A donor heart is available. It is a biological match for all three patients below. You are the Ethics Committee. You must choose ONE.

Patient A	Patient B	Patient C
Age: 15	Age: 45	Age: 60
Status: High School Student	Status: Mother of 3	Status: Famous Brain Surgeon
Medical: Genetic flaw. 80% chance of success	Medical: Virus damage. 90% chance of success.	Medical: Heart failure. 70% chance of success.
Urgency: Stable (can wait 1 month).	Urgency: Critical (will die in 2 days).	Urgency: Critical (will die in 2 days).

Your Decision: We give the heart to Patient ??

The Justification (Why?):

- Did you use Utility (best medical outcome)?
- Did you use Equity (most urgent need)?
- Did you use Social Value (saving the mother/surgeon)?



Extension: The Universal Translator

Design a symbol that means "Gift of Life" but uses NO words, so it can be understood by any culture or language.



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