## **EUGENICS**

## **Lesson Plan: Examples of Eugenics**

**Objective:** Students will be able to realize that eugenics has been a method commonly used

by some societies to deal with people with disabilities.

Students will be able to analyze the justifications for and the ethical dilemmas of

various examples of eugenics.

**Materials:** Copies of T-chart

Website pages

Vocabulary: almshouse idiots

Apgar Test paupers (pauperism)

clone promiscuous epileptics sterilization glaucoma vasectomy

## **New York State Learning Standards:**

ELA Standard 1: Language for Information and Understanding

ELA Standard 2: Language for Literary Response and Expression

ELA Standard 4: Language for Social Interaction

SS Standard 1: History of the United States and New York State

SS Standard 5: Civics, Citizenship, and Government

## **Procedure:**

- 1. The teacher should view the Eugenics section of the Society wing of the website to gain background information.
- 2. Selections from the website may be viewed by students online or copies of those pages may be printed for student use.
- 3. With a partner, students will examine the website. Each pair will choose three examples of eugenics from the website to study. (The common choices from the website: Sparta, Plato's idea of "Selective Breeding", Darwin, The Jukes, Carrie Buck, The Immigration Restriction Act, "T-4" Program and Germany, etc. Students should not be limited to just these choices.
- 4. Using the internet or print sources, students will further research each example in depth.
- 5. After analyzing their research together, each pair of students will attempt to determine the justifications for and ethical dilemmas of each example.
- 6. Each pair will complete the T-chart explaining their findings to the class.

**Closure/Ticket out the door:** Choose one example of eugenics from the presentations by the other students. State the justification for the use and the ethical dilemma of this example.



Name			
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Example of Eugenics:

JUSTIFICATION FOR USE	ETHICAL DILEMMA