

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks

PARTICIPATION RUBRIC

	Relevance	Frequency	Cite evidence	Respect
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the conversation • Ask key question • Elaborate • Bring in relevant personal knowledge • Identify the issues • Move discussion to next level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just right not dominating building on other folks points • addressed 2 – 3 points 	Refer to text to add depth to your argument, build upon a prior points	Listen attentively and actively Build on prior comments Focus on comments not people Body language is open, receptive
B	Related to topic but somewhat general Language is clear and specific examples are provided	Contributes regularly Allows other to share	Refer to text	Listens but still pushes individual point when building is appropriate
C	Only personal experience Tangential or sidetracked	Occasional	Cite an example	Talk over someone Interrupts a point of view
D	Not related to current strand confusing	once	none	Rude, insensitive judgmental verbally or with body language

While you are reading and journaling , take time to talk to each other and your folks about the book.

YES! TALK TO YOUR FOLKS!!!!

Record the conversation in a manner that flows for you both. Two such documents are required.

- Write a T chart for each of you
- Have each of your jotting down your main points in discussion and turn in separate papers
- Use one or two of the discussion questions I gave in the Discussion handout as a starting point. **YOU DO NOT NEED TO ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS. READ THEM AND PICK THE MOST INTRIGUING ONES!**

The passage in which the initial fated cells were removed from Henrietta Lacks’s body reads as follows (see page 33):

“With Henrietta unconscious on the operating table in the center of the room, her feet in stirrups, the surgeon on duty, Dr. Lawrence Wharton, Jr., sat on a stool between her legs. He peered inside Henrietta, dilated her cervix, and prepared to treat her tumor. But first – though no one had told Henrietta that TeLinde was collecting samples or asked if she wanted to be a donor – Wharton picked up a sharp knife and shaved two dime-sized pieces of tissue from Henrietta’s cervix: one from her tumor, and one from the healthy cervical tissue nearby. Then he placed the samples in a glass dish.”

Bearing in mind that those two tissue samples removed from Henrietta were *not* removed in an attempt to treat her cancer, but rather purely for purposes of research, was it wrong for the doctor to remove the sample tissue in the first place? Was it wrong for Dr. Gey to collect those samples for the purpose of trying to grow them in controlled conditions? Does the end - i.e., the immeasurable benefit to humankind resulting from those tissue samples - justify the means - i.e., removing tissue from a person without their consent or knowledge?



Nuremberg Code (1947)

The Nuremberg Code is a set of research ethics principles for human experimentation set as a result of the subsequent Nuremberg Trials at the end of the Second World War.

Directives for Human Experimentation (National Institutes of Health) The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential. This means that the person involved should have legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without the intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, over-reaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision.

a) Was it ethical to take and use Henrietta's cells? Pros? Cons? Where do you stand? CITE EVIDENCE

b) Should the Lacks family be compensated? Is this a post modern approach to economics and individual rights? Should anyone be compensated for cells or tissues used for research?

c) Is it possible to have medicine advance without cellular research? Think about the Polio vaccine.

