

Lesson #3 Comparison Matrix (Answer Key)

Disability Selective Abortion (DSA)

	<i>Expected Findings</i>	<i>Research Findings</i>
1. Disability selective abortion could be summarized as:		The socially accepted practice of aborting those positively diagnosed with Down syndrome.
2. How long has DSA been in use? What years? How many?		Over the last decade or so in Iceland - 100% of positive screenings have resulted in abortions. Test began in early 2000s
3. Where did the atrocity occur?		Globally with particular frequency in modernized countries such as China, Iceland, Canada, and US.
4. Who were the oppressed/ eliminated group? Describe them briefly.		Those diagnosed with Down syndrome.
5. Important statistics (magnitude of effect):		In Iceland the government requires every woman to be offered the screening for Down syndrome; Rates of abortions for positive testing results: Iceland - 100%, United Kingdom - 90%, France - 77%, Denmark - 98%, United States - 67%; Results 85% accurate for test
6. How do institutions, values, and beliefs shape people's acceptance of this practice?		Modern people view personal freedom and individualism as important goods. The medical profession and insurance industry are influential in setting policy and establishing norms."

Lesson #3 Comparison Matrix (Answer Key) cont.

	<i>Expected Findings</i>	<i>Research Findings</i>
7. What is the issue or problem addressed?		How to have healthy children. How to avoid suffering of children and parents in raising a child with a disability.
8. What societal “good” is pursued?		Healthy children who do not have suffering or pain outside that which is widely accepted by society as normal. Children who are “able” according to the world’s definition.
9. What ideologies or philosophies play a part in DAS?		Avoidance of suffering, seeking health, misconstrued freedom to do what I want with my life.
10. How is DSA promoted and encouraged?		100% of women in Iceland are offered the screening and told that most women are screened..
11. What are some of the unique factors or key events of our time period that allow DSA to occur?		Technological advancements that have allowed for genetic testing. Individualism is the widely accepted goal of life. Doing what you want and putting your own needs and wants before that of all others. Living as independently as possible and outside of community.
12. How did the science or technology of our moment in history play a part?		Technology has allowed the screening for Down syndrome.

Lesson #3 Comparison Matrix (Answer Key) cont.

	<i>Expected Findings</i>	<i>Research Findings</i>
<p>13. How do people feel about this practice? What changes have occurred that make people “okay” about DSA?</p>		
<p>To be completed at the close of the unit:</p> <p>How does DSA affect families, communities, society and our collective history? What might the continuing legacy be?</p>		
<p>Speculate about how individuals may have justified or “talked themselves into” accepting the atrocity.</p>		<p>“This is your life. You have the right to choose how your life will look like.”</p> <p>Abortion isn’t murder. A possible life has been ended. Suffering for the child and family has been prevented.</p>