**Vaccine Debate Surrounding MMR Vaccine Causing Autism**

Autism spectrum disorder is a complex disorder that we still do not fully understand the causes behind. Many parents are skeptical that autism might be caused by the MMR Vaccine (Measles, Mumps, Rubella), and thus have decided not to vaccinate their children. Your task is to inform yourself with the literature surrounding initial articles that sparked this fear, and to use credible sources to decide whether or not you support or reject this claim. You will write up an argument for or against the use of vaccines, citing appropriate literature, and discuss the pros and cons for your decision. Examples of credible sites include the CDC and Google Scholar (a collection of open access scientific research papers from universities, etc.).



Debate Points Must Include:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Explanation of controversy and what sparked it

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Support for ‘NO’ or ‘YES’ as to whether vaccines might cause autism

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Pros/Cons for choosing or not choosing to vaccinate children

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_How vaccinations are designed (what is in them, how do they work? – use your notes)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ List of sources you used (URLs and tilted of webpage is sufficient) – look at who is publishing the site to ensure credibility

Sample Planning Sheet:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Support for Yes | Support for No |
|  |  |

GOOD LINKS TO USE

Explanation of Controversy

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MMR_vaccine_controversy>

Support for NO

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccinesafety/concerns/autism.html>

<https://academic.oup.com/cid/article/48/4/456/284219>

Scientific Research Papers (Google Scholar)

<http://www.bmj.com/content/322/7284/460.short>

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejmoa021134#t=article>

Support for YES

<https://www.focusforhealth.org/autism-and-vaccine-debate/>