

Cornell Guided Notes

Principles of Biomedical Technology (Principles of Biomedical Science) | 2026-09-15

Name

Period

Date

Lesson

Lesson focus

Ethics of autopsy

Key words and questions

Prepared details and student notes

Essential question
What is today's target?

Debate whether autopsies should require family consent, and defend your view with reasoning. Big idea: Autopsy sits at the intersection of individual rights, family grief, and society's need for truth about how people die.

My notes, examples, and questions

Key words
What vocabulary unlocks the lesson?

- homeostasis
- tissue
- organ system
- toxicology
- histology
- mechanism of death

My notes, examples, and questions

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Cornell Notes - Continued

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Must-know ideas
What should I understand by the end?

- A medical examiner can perform a forensic autopsy without family consent when the cause of death is unknown, suspicious, or legally required to be investigated.
- Autopsies serve public-health purposes beyond individual cases: they detect patterns of disease, workplace hazards, and criminal activity.
- The ethical tension is between bodily autonomy (which ends at death) and the rights of family, state, and public health.

My notes, examples, and questions

Process notes
What happens during class?

- 0:00: Hook: read a brief description of a real autopsy-consent case; brief whole-class reaction
- 0:08: Background: who can order an autopsy, and under what circumstances; roles of medical examiner vs. coroner
- 0:18: Read the ethics prompt; list one argument for consent requirement and one for mandatory autopsy
- 0:30: Small-group debate: pick a side and connect it to investigative truth or bodily autonomy
- 0:52: Individual CER writing: position, evidence, reasoning
- 1:10: Share two CERs; preview Tuesday tissue-type content and Wednesday lab

My notes, examples, and questions

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Steps and evidence
What do I do and turn in?

- Read the prompt: Whose body is it after death, and who decides?
- List one argument for required consent and one for mandatory autopsy.
- Choose a side and connect it to the value of investigative truth.
- Argue your claim in your group with one reason and one example.
- Post a written CER with your position and supporting evidence.

Evidence: CER - Written CER (3-5 sentences) arguing whether autopsies should require family consent, with a reference to either investigative truth or bodily autonomy in the reasoning.

My notes, examples, and questions

Checks for understanding
How do I know I got it?

- I can articulate competing values around autopsy consent.
- I can defend a claim with reasoning.

My notes, examples, and questions

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Lab or safety notes
What must I handle carefully?

Supplies:

- Compound light microscope
- Prepared tissue slides (muscle, epithelial, nervous)
- Preserved heart or anatomical heart model
- Dissection tray and probe
- Nitrile gloves
- Lab notebook for histology sketches
- Sample toxicology data sheet

My notes, examples, and questions

Summary

Today's lesson focused on Ethics of autopsy. The main target was: Debate whether autopsies should require family consent, and defend your view with reasoning. The evidence of learning is CER: Written CER (3-5 sentences) arguing whether autopsies should require family consent, with a reference to either investigative truth or bodily autonomy in the reasoning.. In my own words, the most important idea from today is:

My summary

My final question or connection