

Reading Task Instructions:

In this task, you are given 3 different articles to read on the topic of vaccinations.

In Lecture 1 this week, we briefly talked about critical reading & high-order thinking skills. As well as, the importance of making connections between different articles or studies to allow yourself to gain a deeper understanding of a topic area and use the information to ensure there is no gaps in the information available.

This is extremely important for any person wishing to advance academically and professionally. Not only that, there is an inherent need for all citizens to critically assess information that we receive in the media. We each have a right to the correct information and we also need to ensure that false claims are ousted from public opinion.

In this task, imagine that you have been given the essay title:

“Many people nowadays are deciding not to vaccinate their children.

Do you agree or disagree with this decision?”

Using only the 3 articles provided, you must form your opinion. You do not need to write an essay answer, you are only thinking about your opinion.

You do need to:

1. Read each article
2. Make connections between the information in the articles (What information is similar? What information is different?)
3. Form questions about the articles (Example: Where did the evidence come from? Why do they view research differently?)
4. Write down the questions that you have formed
5. Write down your opinion

*Note: You do not need to write an essay for this.

We will be discussing this in the lectures & webinar

Background information:

- A **vaccine** is a product that produces immunity from a disease and can be administered through needle injections, by mouth, or by aerosol.
- A **vaccination** is the injection of a killed or weakened organism that produces immunity in the body against that organism.
- An **immunization** is the process by which a person or animal becomes protected from a disease. Vaccines cause immunization, and there are also some diseases that cause immunization after an individual recovers from the disease.
- **Measles** is a highly contagious infection caused by the **measles** virus. Initial signs and symptoms typically include fever, often greater than 40 °C (104.0 °F), cough, runny nose, and inflamed eyes. Two or three days after the start of symptoms, small white spots may form inside the mouth.
- **MMR** stands for measles, mumps and rubella. These are three different diseases which are caused by three different viruses. The vaccines given to immunise against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) are all combined into one injection - the MMR vaccine.
- **Autism** is a complex neurobehavioral condition that includes impairments in social interaction and developmental language and communication skills combined with rigid, repetitive behaviours. Because of the range of symptoms, this condition is now called **autism** spectrum disorder (ASD).