

**Building Language Skills with The Seattle Times  
February 16, 2017**

Article: **Nevada lawmaker seeks ban on human microchips**

Print Replica: Tuesday, February 14, 2017

Section: MAIN, A8

**Standard:**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.5.10

By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4-5 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.8

Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.

**Objective:**

Students will practice their reading skills and looking at how the author uses reasons and evidence to support the information in the text.

**Pre-Reading:** Get into pairs and go through these questions together. Be prepared to share with the larger group.

- What do you know about microchips? What are they and what are they used for?
- If you have a family dog, is it microchipped? Why or why not?
- Should there be tracking devices on humans? Why or why not?
- What would the pros/cons of tracking devices be?

**Vocabulary:**

Look up the definitions for the following words. Write definitions in the space provided, using your own words. Get into pairs and take turns telling your partner the definition of these four words without looking at what you wrote.

**autonomy:**

**privacy:**

**human rights:**

**public health:**

***How are all these things important to you?***

### **Building Language Skills:**

Get into pairs and read the article together, aloud and taking turns. *Fluency* is reading with accuracy, speed, and understanding. Take your time and read at a pace that you're comfortable with. To read aloud with *expression* requires an understanding of the text's meaning beyond simple decoding of individual words.

Create a *fluency log* during your reading. Write down words that are challenging to you or words that you don't know the meaning of.

In addition to your fluency log, how does the author use reasoning and evidence to support the main points in this article? Does the evidence strengthen how you feel about microchipping? Why or why not?

Review your list with your partner and be prepared to share with the entire class.

### **Comprehension:**

1. Lawmakers on a judicial panel considered whether Nevada should join at least four other states in banning what?
2. Republican Sen. Becky Harris of Las Vegas, sponsor of the legislation, said she's worried computer chips could pose serious risks to what two things?
3. Radio frequency identification or RFID technology can be encapsulated in glass tubes and can be injected under skin. What size are they?
4. When did the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approve the chips for use in humans?
5. Two employees at an Ohio-based surveillance company stirred public debate in 2006. What did they do?
6. What other states have enacted legislation banning any required implantations, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures?
7. What countries have considered, but not enacted, laws mandating the chips for certain groups, such as criminals considered a potential threat to society?

### **Post-Reading Class Discussion or Journal Writing Assignment:**

***“This is a completely new issue,” Harris said. “I just want a safety measure in place until we better understand the technology and the reasoning behind people’s desire to require implanting chips.”***

- Why would people want to implant chips in their body or other’s bodies?
- What safety measures would need to be in place?

***ACLU of Nevada Policy Director Holly Welborn said there’s no impending need to protect people against mandatory microchipping, but there’s no question the technology would violate rights to personal autonomy and privacy.***

***“There really aren’t, under any circumstance, any justifications for that type of a tracking device on a human being,” Welborn said.***

- Do you agree with Welborn that the technology of microchipping would violate rights to personal autonomy and privacy? Why or why not?

***Others voiced concerns that it would forbid families and legal guardians of Alzheimer’s patients from deciding to put computer chips in those patients, who often wander in later stages of the disease.***

- Do you see microchips helping some individuals? Who would you feel would benefit from being microchipped?
- Would it be fair to implant them into someone’s body without them being mentally sound, in order to protect them (example: a family member suffering from Alzheimer’s)? Why or why not?

***“There really aren’t, under any circumstance, any justifications for that type of a tracking device on a human being.”***

- Do you agree or disagree with the above statement?