

CHAPTER 8	Thought Lab 8.1: Cardiovascular Health, Technology, and Society	BLM 8.1.9
HANDOUT		
Purpose: To analyze solutions to problems associated with the circulatory system.		

Procedure

1. Use a variety of print and/or electronic resources to identify the factors that either individually or in combination lead to cardiovascular disease. Summarize how each factor contributes to cardiovascular disease.
2. Identify two technologies that are used or that are being developed to treat cardiovascular disease. What investment of time, people, and money was (or is) required to develop these technologies?

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- Describe how certain lifestyles can predispose an individual to cardiovascular disease.

Analysis

- Healthcare costs represent a large investment on the part of society. The money to support these costs comes from taxpayers—members of society. Although some people feel that our healthcare dollars can be spent more wisely, many people agree that the development of technologies for treating disease is worth the financial cost. In your opinion, should more money be allocated toward preventing disease or toward treating disease? Justify your response.
- Why are most heart and cardiovascular problems preventable?

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- What can every Canadian do to reduce the impact of cardiovascular disease on our health care system?

Extension

- Write a newspaper-style editorial that addresses the question, “Should our health care system continue to pay for individuals who lead a lifestyle that predisposes them to cardiovascular disease?” The heart-lung machine was invented during a period of approximately 20 years, starting in 1930, by surgeon John Gibbon and his wife Mary Gibbon, a laboratory technician. In 1953, Dr. Gibbon used the machine to perform the first successful open-heart surgery.