



**Responding to Global Health Issues:  
A ‘NOW with BILL MOYERS’ Interview with Bill Gates**

Directions: As you watch the conversation between journalist Bill Moyers and billionaire Bill Gates, please follow along with the transcript and respond to the following:

1. Summarize in your own words what you think Bill Gates means when he says, “In this country, when you get sick, people generally reach out, you know. That’s the time to help other people. And yet (with) some of these diseases it’s quite the opposite.”
  
2. Gates says, “...the most interesting thing I learned is this thing – that’s still surprising when I tell other people – which is that, as you improve health in a society, population growth goes down.” How would you explain the decrease in population growth he describes?
  
3. Gates says, “I remember seeing the article and it – and it showed that Rotavirus (causes) over a half million children (to die) per year. And I said to myself, that can't be true.” Rotavirus is a contagious virus that is thought to be responsible for more than 125 million cases of diarrhea and as many as 600,000 deaths each year in young children worldwide. It can be prevented through proper hygiene and hand washing techniques, as well as clean drinking water. Before today, did you know about Rotavirus? Why do you think Bill Gates was shocked when he first learned about the statistics of the Rotavirus?
  
4. Gates says, “Three million kids every year (are) dying of things that are completely preventable with the technology we have today.” What type of prevention is Bill Gates referring to in this statement?
  
5. Gates believes that the rates of tremendous disease and death in poor countries are a “failure of capitalism”. What does he mean by that?

6. Gates says, "I think the world will be measured by how it responds to the AIDS epidemic." What message is he trying to convey with this statement?
7. Gates points out that, "Intervening early is when you can (get) the biggest effect" in preventing the spread of disease. What early intervention techniques does the U.S. provide that may not exist in other countries?
8. How is a village vaccination program effective?
9. What are the current major world diseases in need of attention?
10. In regards to AIDS, Gates says, "You're infected and you don't actually see the health effects 'til six to eight years later, (and) that causes people not to understand what's going on." Why do you think people respond quickly to diseases that cause immediate death and not to the ones that may take years to show their effects?
11. What have we learned from fighting Malaria?
12. Bill Moyers says, "Their wealth is their health. Isn't poverty the real issue here?" Describe in your own words what he means.
13. Gates says, "...the world has plenty of resources to go solve these problems... If you raised wealth and you improve health, particularly if you educate women, then this virtuous cycle kicks in and a society not only becomes self-sustaining, but it can move up to a fully developed status." What are some ways to accomplish this goal?
14. If you could ask Bill Gates one question about his involvement in global health, what would it be?