

## NARRATIVE ESSAY

## What Would Dr Salk Think?

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**HOW TO CITE:** Rabinowitz HK. What  
Would Dr Salk Think?. *Fam Med*.  
2025;57(7):516–516.  
doi: [10.22454/FamMed.2025.754965](https://doi.org/10.22454/FamMed.2025.754965)

**PUBLISHED:** 2 July 2025

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Raised in Pittsburgh,  
Dr Salk's polio vaccine trial  
Of grade school children  
My formative medical memory.

Doctoring for decades,  
Tending to patients,  
Thousands of vaccines,  
Preventing polio, measles.

Throughout, steadfast in feeding  
“The very root of medicine,”  
To help “one human” with  
Medicine’s “special knowledge.”<sup>1</sup>

Recently retired, COVID erupted,  
Upheaving life and limb,  
Disrupting the earth  
In unprecedented ways.

Between pandemics,  
Science’s amazing advances  
At the highest level imaginable.  
Antibiotics, mRNA vaccines.

Then, society’s amazing retreats,  
Anti-science, vaccine denial,  
At the highest levels imaginable.  
What would Dr Salk think?

## REFERENCES

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**FIGURE 1.** The Author’s “x5” Serum Card (Vaccine Record and Antibody Tests Results) From When He Participated in the Salk Vaccine Trial<sup>2</sup>

Rabinowitz, Howard K.	Roosevelt-3A	8/11	2019
3/10/53 121-E-9 (168)			#54
3/25 128-J-5 (184)	0.8	0.0	0.4 #25
4/14 131-F-4 (299)	4.16	4.8	8.32 #2
3-25-55	0	0	0 #79
4-14-55	8	16	32
4-12-56 156-L-5 (116)	< 16	2.56	16
4-24-56 156-L-6 (256)	2.56	2.048	128
3/10 5 R. A. 110 I H 1.8	4-12-56	REF	1.2
3/25 27		(det)	