



<http://euthanasia.procon.org/>

Should Physician-Assisted Suicide Be Legal?

Proponents of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide (PAS) contend that terminally ill people should have the right to end their suffering with a quick, dignified, and compassionate death. They argue that the right to die is protected by the same constitutional safeguards that guarantee such rights as marriage, procreation, and the refusal or termination of life-saving medical treatment.

Opponents of euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide contend that doctors have a moral responsibility to keep their patients alive as reflected by the Hippocratic Oath. They argue there may be a "slippery slope" from euthanasia to murder, and that legalizing euthanasia will unfairly target the poor and disabled and create incentives for insurance companies to terminate lives in order to save money.

Using this ProCon website, which has facts, statistics, and viewpoints from both sides of this issue, as well as the Taking Sides article, **take a position and write a persuasive essay over the question, should physician-assisted suicide be legal?**

Be specific by backing up your position with evidence: statistics, facts, quotes, court case decisions, studies, etc. Don't just argue your point, but also argue why the opposing view's position is wrong or misguided in your view.

Requirements:

- 3-4 pages
- typed
- double-spaced
- 12-pt. font size, Times New Roman font
- must have a title to your paper
- must include specific quotations from the reading that are correctly cited in-text
- refer to the attached rubric for more specifics as to what I will be looking for

Persuasive Essay Rubric

INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION (15pts) – How well did you start your paper and summarize your position? Do you have a clearly stated thesis? How well did you end your paper and summarize your position?

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HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.) – Did you use specific examples from the reading, the ProCon site, and other handouts to back up your argument? Do you use specific quotes from the reading and website? Do you argue why the opposing view’s position is wrong?

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PERSUASIVENESS (15 pts.) – How persuasive was your argument?

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GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (15 pts.) – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren’t any errors? Correct use of in-text citations?

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MISC. (5 pts.) – Is your paper the required length? Title? Typed? Correct font?

0 1 2 3 4 5 _____

TOTAL: _____ /100