Lesson 6 Tutorial Exercise (1)

**What are your thoughts on euthanasia?**

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***Quora*** URL: [*https://www.quora.com/What-are-your-thoughts-on-euthanasia*](https://www.quora.com/What-are-your-thoughts-on-euthanasia)

For me, euthanasia is a path. It is a way of preserving all the qualities that have been my life. It is the choice I have made as an affirmation of my own humanity. It is an act of love for both those who love me and for the love I have of myself.

I have a disease which has a trajectory set in stone. Timing is the only unknown.

For the next two to five years, I will be able to retain a degree of self-realization. I will remember my children but one day I will forget their names … then over time … even that I have children ... grandchildren. Memories and hallucinations will slowly blend into a warped history. I will yet have the cognizance to understand that I am observing myself evaporating from existence. Then even that will disappear.

Up to this point, I want to live.

After this period, my heart will beat and my lungs will breathe. It won’t be that I have lost control of my bodily functions … I simply won’t be aware of them. I won’t be aware that I have been laying in my own feces for hours. I won’t be aware of the concept of hours. I won’t be aware of the stranger grimacing while cleaning my body. I won’t be aware of any of my past, of who I am, who I was.

It is when I reach this point, I do not want to live.

The state of Oregon understands this and has passed laws facilitating dying with dignity.

God bless Oregon. Euthanasia is gift.

**Questions for discussion:**

1. What kind of euthanasia does the author refer to (voluntary, involuntary, or non-voluntary)?
2. What are the author’s reasons for that kind of euthanasia? (There are at least 4 reasons given here.)
3. Is the author a utilitarian?
4. Is the author a deontologist?
5. For deontologist, they would concern whether we have the right to a request of euthanasia. Is it a ‘positive’ or ‘negative’ right?
6. What is the difference between a mere life (i.e. existence or survival) and quality of life?
7. How far do you agree with the author?