

Assisted suicide should be legalised

Assisted suicide is when a medical professional helps another person to end their life. While this sounds harmful, there are many cases in real life where such a procedure is desired and needed. People who have incurable diseases which give them constant pain with little chance of improvement, severe terminal illnesses, and incurable conditions where there is no hope of recovery. In these cases the patient may want to end their life. In 1996 issue of the BMA News Review, a survey of over 750 GPs and hospital doctors showed that 46% of doctors supported a change in the law to allow them to carry out the request of a terminally ill patient for voluntary euthanasia, 44% were against euthanasia and supported the present law and 37% said they would be willing to actively help end the life of a terminally ill patient who had asked for euthanasia and so assisting suicide, if the law allowed it.

Points For	Points Against
At least five percent of terminal pain cannot be controlled, even with the best care. Faced with this, it is surely more humane that those people be allowed to choose the manner of their own end, and have the assistance of a doctor to die with dignity.	Every human has a right to life and a choice to live. Quality of life is a relative term in some ways talks down to people living with long-term illnesses. These people are not second-class citizens and their life is of equal value to everyone else.
By legalising this, the process can be brought out into the open. This means that there can be a franky discussion which can involve the family. They will also be able to understand why they want to end their life and leaves them with no feelings of guilt.	Arguments from pro-life groups suggest that nearly ninety-five percent of those who kill themselves have been shown to have a diagnosable psychiatric illness in the months preceding suicide. The majority suffer from depression that can be treated.
The law should not stand in the way of free will. There are many choices we can make in our lives. This should include when we end it. People are afraid of death but that doesn't mean we shouldn't talk about it.	Modern palliative care is immensely flexible and effective, and helps to preserve quality of life as far as is possible. There is no need for terminally ill patients ever to be in pain, even at the very end of the course of their illness.



Useful language to use in formal debates

In general, you would need to come up with 4-5 main arguments to support your team's debating position. It's also important to remember to also anticipate the opposition's arguments to help you defend your team's point of view.

Building your Argument

Introducing your point: To begin with... First of all...

Connecting your points: Also... Furthermore... What's more...

Showing importance: More importantly... What's worse... Above all else...

Giving examples: For instance... For example...

Opinions, Preferences:

In my opinion..., The way I see it..., As far as I'm concerned..., If it were up to me..., I suppose..., I suspect that..., I'm pretty sure that..., I honestly feel that, Without a doubt...,

Disagreeing:

Don't you think it would be better..., Shouldn't we consider..., But what about..., I'm afraid I don't agree..., Frankly, I doubt if..., The truth of the matter is..., The problem with your point of view is that..., It's a fact that..., According to ..., The reality of the situation is..., The numbers show that..., The fact is this:...,

Partially agreeing:

I agree with you to a point however..., I see where you are coming from but..., I see what you are saying but ...,

Delaying Strategies

I can't answer that directly..., I'll need time to think about that..., That's a very interesting question, because..., That's a difficult question to answer,

Asking someone to repeat

Pardon me? Pardon? Excuse me? Sorry? I'm sorry? I beg your pardon?

Holding the floor

Hold on..., Hold on a second..., Yes, I was about to mention that..., Well, I was about to come to that..., Sorry, I haven't finished yet, I haven't made my point yet ...

Expressing solutions and alternatives

The solution is to..., Then you will..., The best way to ... is ..., To ..., you really have to ..., There are many choices...,

Supplementary materials



If needed, each member can be given a card indicating their position in the debate.

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