

Discussion section debate #4

Background: Suppose that Bob meets all of the following criteria:

1. he is suffering from a terminal illness;
2. he is extremely unlikely to benefit from a medical discovery during what remains of his life expectancy;
3. his illness is causing him to suffer intolerable pain;
4. he has repeatedly expressed a voluntary and competent wish to die in order to avoid the symptoms of his illness;
5. he is unable to end his life without assistance.

Bob begs his physician to end his (Bob's) life by administering a lethal dose of barbiturates.

Question: Would it be morally wrong for Bob's physician to intentionally end Bob's life by administering a lethal dose of barbiturates?

Group 1: Provide reasons to think that it would be *morally wrong* for Bob's physician to intentionally end Bob's life by administering a lethal dose of barbiturates.

Group 2: Provide reasons to think that it would *not* be morally wrong for Bob's physician to intentionally end Bob's life by administering a lethal dose of barbiturates (i.e., that it would be *morally permissible* or *morally right*).

Group 3: Discuss the debate rubric and use it to assess the debate.