

3.2 Listening to classroom lectures/talks on engineering/technology

- Do you feel like when you talk, no one listens? Or do you struggle to remember what you hear? Improve your speaking and listening skills.
- Effective communication is paramount to great leadership. But it's more nuanced and complicated than just learning how to give a great speech. If you want to inspire others through your words, you must learn how to not only speak effectively, but also listen effectively. Communication is a two-way street, after all.
- Your intimidation quickly gets turned into a strong desire to help those science-minded students clearly communicate their big ideas to non-scientists. Listen first, and then speak.
- There are tips applicable to anyone who needs to simplify their messages without dumping them down, to more effectively share wisdom with larger audiences.
- Confidence

The word euthanasia is of Greek origin and literally means “a good death.” The American Heritage Dictionary defines it as “the act of killing a person painlessly for reasons of mercy.” Such killing can be done through active means, such as administering a lethal injection, or by passive means, such as withholding medical care or food and water. In recent years in the United States, there have been numerous cases of active euthanasia in the news.

They usually involve the deliberate killing of ill or incapacitated persons by relatives or friends who plead that they can no longer bear to see their loved ones suffer. Although such killings are a crime, the perpetrators are often dealt with leniently by our legal system, and the media usually portrays them as compassionate heroes who take personal risks to save another from unbearable suffering. The seeming acceptance of active forms of euthanasia is alarming, but we face a bigger, more insidious threat from passive forms of euthanasia.

Every year, in hospitals and nursing homes around the country, there are growing numbers of documented deaths caused by caregivers withholding life sustaining care, including food and water, from vulnerable patients who cannot speak for themselves. While it is illegal to kill someone directly, for example with a gun or knife, in many cases the law has put its stamp of approval on causing death by omitting needed care. Further, many states have “living will” laws designed to protect those who withhold treatment, and there have been numerous court rulings which have approved of patients being denied care and even starved and dehydrated to death. Because such deaths occur quietly within the confines of hospitals and nursing homes, they can be kept hidden from the public.

Most euthanasia victims are old or very ill, so their deaths might be attributed to a cause other than the denial of care that really killed them. Further, it is often relatives of

the patient who request that care be withheld. In one court case, the court held that decisions to withhold life sustaining care may be made not only by close family members but also by a number of third parties, and that such decisions need not be reviewed by the judicial system if there is no disagreement between decision makers and medical staff.

The court went so far as to rule that a nursing home may not refuse to participate in the fatal withdrawal of food and water from an incompetent patient! “Extraordinary” or “heroic” treatment need not be used when the chance for recovery is poor and medical intervention would serve only to prolong the dying process. But to deny customary and reasonable care or to deliberately starve or dehydrate someone because he or she is very old or very ill should not be permitted. Most of the cases coming before the courts do not involve withholding heroic measures from imminently dying people, but rather they seek approval for denying basic care, such as administration of food and water, to people who are not elderly or terminally ill, but who are permanently incapacitated. These people could be expected to live indefinitely, though in an impaired state, if they were given food and water and minimal treatment. No one has the right to judge that another’s life is not worth living. The basic right to life should not be abridged because someone decides that someone else’s quality of life is too low.

If we base the right to life on quality of life standards, there is no logical place to draw the line. To protect vulnerable patients, we must foster more positive attitudes towards people with serious and incapacitating illnesses and conditions. Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow human beings and deserve our care and respect.

We must also enact positive legislation that will protect vulnerable people from those who consider their lives meaningless or too costly to maintain and who would cause their deaths by withholding life-sustaining care such as food and water. © Copyright Read Theory LLC, 2012. All rights reserved. 2 Questions 1) The tone of the author can best be described as A. pleading B. argumentative C. compassionate D. emphatic E. empathetic 2) In paragraph 3, the author finds starvation and dehydration induced euthanasia is to be “more insidious” because A. euthanasia is legally considered to be a criminal act B. the public’s attitude toward euthanasia is becoming more positive C. it often involves those who cannot protest D. the patient has asked to die with dignity E. its perpetrators are viewed as kindly caregivers

3) As used in paragraph 3, what is the best synonym for insidious?

A. mischievous

B. treacherous

C. seductive

D. apparent

E. cumulative

4) The author maintains that death by withholding care is

A. largely confined to hospitals

B. largely confined to the terminally ill

C. often requested by family members

D. approved by living wills

E. difficult to prove if prosecuted

5) As used in paragraph 7, which is the best definition of abridged?

A. trimmed

B. curtailed

C. lengthened

D. Extended

E. compressed

6) Using the passage as a guide, it can be inferred that the author would find euthanasia less objectionable in cases in which I. the patient's death is imminent II. The patient has left instructions in a living will not to provide care III. The patient refuses to accept nourishment

A. I only

B. II only

C. I and II only

D. II and III only

E. I, II and III.

7) The main idea of paragraph 7 is that

A. lawyers will be unable to prosecute or defend caregivers

B. no comprehensive right or wrong definition of euthanasia will exist

C. using a subjective standard will make the decision to end an individual's life arbitrary

D. no boundary will exist between euthanasia and care omission

E. 'quality of life' will no longer be able to be rigidly defined

8) In the final paragraph the author writes, "Despite the ravages of their diseases, they are still our fellow human beings and deserve our care and respect." The main purpose of this statement is to

A. prove a previous argument B. illustrate an example C. gainsay a later statement D. object to a larger idea E. justify an earlier statement

