

Task for *The Garret: Don Watson*

How to write an argumentative essay

Example: Should euthanasia be legalised?

FOR	AGAINST
<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State thesis • Preview arguments 	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State thesis • Preview arguments
<p>Argument 1: Humans have the right to decide their own fate so long as they are still capable of doing so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand for euthanasia growing. • Info about methods now freely available. • Gives people control over their own fate. • Supports individual rights. • End suffering. • Does not extend poor quality of life. 	<p>Argument 1: Legalised euthanasia could lead society down a slippery slope to a point where people are killed without their consent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Killed because they are a drain on their families. • Killed because they are using very expensive hospital/medical facilities. • Could end up with a Nazi state in which people are legally murdered.
<p>Argument 2: Doctors should not have to break the law in order to help patients die painlessly and with dignity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doctors already help patients to die but they could risk being charged with a crime. • Doctors should not have to play God. 	<p>Argument 2: Asking doctors to assist with voluntary, active euthanasia means that they have to break their traditional Hippocratic Oath.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moral obligation to keep people alive. • Should follow the Commandment 'Thou shalt not kill'. • Can ask doctors to go against their own moral convictions.
<p>Argument 3: Protection can be built into legalised euthanasia so that it cannot be abused.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel of doctors, nurses, pastoral care workers to assess each case. • People must give their conscious consent. • Patient's request must be well-informed, free, persistent. 	<p>Argument 3: Pain in very sick people can still be controlled by the use of drugs; patients do not need to seek death.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of drugs such as morphine. • Devices such as syringe driver can deliver accurate levels of pain killers.

<p>Consider other case and then refute:</p>	<p>Consider other case and then refute:</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p>	<p>Conclusion:</p>