

Biomedical Ethics -- PHI 110 Case Study Instructions

Learning Objectives:

The purpose of this assignment is to:

- Learn how to identify ethical dilemmas in biomedical cases.
- Understand how different moral theories function and provide different resolutions to ethical dilemmas.
- Articulate reasons and provide justifications for a particular resolution.

Instructions:

You will be given a case to read and analyze using a particular moral theory. For each case study assignment you will present a 2-page typed (12 point font, double spaced, 1 inch margins) analysis that includes the following:

I. Identify the Ethical Dilemma (introductory paragraph)

Identify the ethical dilemma the case raises *for the physician*. (1 paragraph)

- Which two principles are in conflict for the physician?
- How do these principles direct the physician to perform competing actions?

II. Ethical Analysis (body paragraphs)

(a) Provide a brief summary or explanation of the assigned moral theory (1 paragraph)

- DO NOT COPY this explanation from your TEXTBOOK or OTHER SOURCES. The explanation of the theory should be written in *your own words*.
- Be sure to properly cite any sources you use.

(b) Using the assigned ethical theory, provide a resolution to the ethical dilemma. (several paragraphs)

- Given all of the relevant information in the case and the assigned moral theory, decide what the resolution should be according to that moral theory.
- Be sure to support the decision by explaining how the moral theory would justify the resolution to the dilemma.

III. Response & Evaluation of the Ethical Analysis (conclusion paragraph)

(a) Evaluate the decision provided in Part II (b). (1 paragraph)

- In other words, do you agree or disagree with the resolution that the moral theory provided (the answer given in Part II (b)) and why? Explain.
- Make sure you provide independent reasons for your position. Do not simply restate your analysis from Part II (b).

For your evaluation, you may want to consider the following question: Do the implications of the particular moral theory used to analyze the case match with our moral intuitions? Why or why not? Explain.

Make sure:

- ✓ Your analysis is properly organized.
- ✓ You include proper citations (when necessary).
- ✓ You carefully proofread your assignment.

Note: You should refer to the ethical principles, concepts, and theories discussed in Chapter 1 to answer these questions. You may also want to refer to other assigned articles from your text that relate to the particular issue raised in the assigned case.