

Applying an ethical theory essay sample

[Sociology](#), [Ethics](#)



Deontology is defined as “ the focus on the duties and obligations one has in carrying out actions rather than on the consequences of those actions.”

(Mosser, 2013). It may actually be harder than it seems to carry out this theory depending on the situation. One situation in particular is euthanasia or assisting someone who chooses to end their life. In this paper, I will apply the deontological theory to the issue of euthanasia and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this theory in relation to this issue. Our text states that “ the golden rule which is do unto others as you have them do unto you” should be thought as in reference to the deontological theory. (Mosser, 2013). Seems rather simple, but not that’s not quite the case when it comes to euthanasia or assisted suicide. It’s fair to say that we could all agree with treating people the way we would expect to be treated, but is it fair to agree that accepting or helping a person end their life is the right thing to do? I could simply reply no, however, I will not be applying the deontological theory if I was to do so.

In this case, in order to satisfy the individual, I would have to approve of their decision of euthanasia. It would be my obligation respect their wish and help fulfill it in any way needed. Although, it would be tough, one in this position must remember that it their duty to accept the situation rather than dwell on the consequences that will follow. A benefit of applying this theory to such a situation is showing respect for the other and helping them carry out their wish. It may not appear to be good at first glance, however the deontology theory is clear about carrying out an act without focusing on the results that will follow. In this case, if a person insists on refusing treatment to end their life instead of suffering, the only thing left to do is understand their requests

instead of rejecting them. A weakness associated with this theory is the fact of having to accept knowing that a loved one would rather die than fight for their life. No one wants to take part in this sort of situation. This type of circumstance is hard even though it is what the person on the other end wants.