

CRITERIA FOR CASE ANALYSES

Apply theory that best fits

Stick with one action as your final action to be judged

Describe connection of facts to theory in as much detail as your can

Argument should be at least one page long.

Correct use of language of ethical theory

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1. Do not use language of another theory

2. Never mention rights when using any theories except Rights, Justice, and Rawls

Never mention fairness except when doing Justice or Rawls

Never mention better off or worse off unless doing Utilitarianism or Rawls

Never mention results of an action when doing Kant

HOW TO ANALYZE CASES

ETHICAL THEORIES

RIGHTS

UTILITARIANISM

KANT

JUSTICE

RAWLS

VIRTUES

CARING

CASES

Describe the case

ARGUMENT

Choose a theory to fit the case

Tie the theory to description of the case

In sentences of your argument you should

connect WORDS of your case description
to WORDS of the theory definition.

HOW TO CONNECT (or bridge gaps between)

WORDS OF YOUR CASE DESCRIPTION TO WORDS OF THE THEORY DEFINITION.

Like algebra: $(A + C) \& (x + D) = (B+C) \& (A +D)$

So solving for x?

Analogy is, in connecting terms, make sure you fill in missing connections, like x.

EXAMPLE of filling in the obvious

Mary worked for Enron for 20 years.

Therefore

Mary is unethical!

BRIDGE: If someone worked for Enron for 20 years they are unethical

Notice that once you fill in the gaps of your reasoning, your thinking really becomes clear. In the example above, it might seem to make sense to conclude that since Mary worked at Enron, she might be unethical, but when you spell it out, the flaw in your thinking becomes clearer. The bridge is maintaining that everyone who worked for Enron was unethical, but of course, this is very unlikely. Just because Mary worked for Enron for 20 years doesn't mean she was a crook. In fact, regular Enron workers were some of the victims of Enron execs who suffered most. They lost their pensions and everything, and then had trouble finding work elsewhere.

IMPORTANT: In writing your argument, do not begin the argument with a summary of your case. Rather make your ethical statements, and bring in CASE DETAILS (facts) to demonstrate the ethical statements.

you CHOOSE ONE FACT WHEN YOU DO YOUR CASE, THE MOST COMPUTER ETHICS IMPORTANT FACT. Below I give you examples of a case with 3 facts and how you would do an argument for each, but you would not be doing 3 arguments for a case, only one.

RIGHTS ANALYSIS EXAMPLES (choosing action)

EXAMPLE ONE

Ethics of rights are violated in the case of Risking a Life to Protect a Child.

FACTS

Hahn burglarized the home of Aitken

Aitken molested a child & photographed it

Hahn stole disc with those photos & then delivered stolen photographs disc to police

THEORY DEFINED

RIGHTS a justified claim to a certain kind of treatment from others, to help from others or to be left alone by others.

ARGUMENT FACT 1

Hahn burglarized the home of Aitken

This burglary violated the negative right of Aitken to be left alone.

CONNECTION: when you burglarize the home of someone you are not leaving them alone, you are violating their right to privacy in their own home.

EXAMPLE TWO. PLEASE NOTE, this action would be a very bad choice to analyze. Why? Because it is a clear no-brainer. Obviously, Aitken was wrong to molest a child. You should choose an action that is not so clear-cut.

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ARGUMENT FACT 2

Aitken molested a child & photographed it.

Molesting a child violates that negative right of the child to be left alone

CONNECTION: When you touch a child sexually, you are not leaving them alone, you are violating their right to sexual choices, because children cannot make these choices, any interference is a violation of their choice

EXAMPLE THREE. This would be the best choice of action for this case.

Notice that in this case ethical rights seem to conflict.

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ARGUMENT FACT 3

Hahn delivered stolen photographs disc to police

This delivery violated negative right to privacy of Aitken if Aiken is innocent, but upheld the positive right of the child to help from others.

CONNECTION: Delivering stolen discs to police is a violation of the negative right of innocent people.

But the right of the child to sexual sanctity is important. Aitken had no right to privacy. He was not innocent. When Hahn initially burglarized Aitken's home, Hahn did not know that Aitken was not innocent. He should not have burglarized a home, but once he discovered the discs, Aitken's rights to privacy were forfeit.

The right of the child to be left alone sexually is so important that it becomes a positive right. We must help her by making sure that she is not molested. She has a positive right to help from government and it is our duty to help if we can.

Hahn, in delivering the disc to police was doing his ethical duty to help her, and it is now the duty of police to help even further.

The connections in the examples I have given here are very short, you would elaborate, describing in detail as many conflicting rights as you can uncover, & you would clearly show which right is most important, & why. Make your reader feel what this is like, describe why the right matters.

CAUTIONS: RIGHTS Theory

- Privacy is always a negative right
- Negative rights are usually more important than positive rights
- Profit is not relevant to rights: do not mention profit

CAUTIONS: UTILITARIANISM Theory

- Innocence & Guilt are not relevant to Utilitarianism
- It's not just about sheer numbers—degree matters
- Society is not a person—only people count
- Do not mention pleasure/pain
- Do not even think in terms of rights
- Company losses rarely matter:
 - Money only counts when it goes from rich to poor
 - Rich get very little satisfaction or benefit from \$1000., poor get great benefit from \$1000.
 - Company x loses \$\$, Company y gains those \$\$, money just changes hands