



HCE 430 HEALTH CARE ETHICS

WEEK 2- THEORIES OF ETHICS

CRITICAL THINKING ACTIVITY

EXPLORE TWO ETHICAL THEORIES OF YOUR CHOICE.

Choose two from the following:

- Natural Law Theory
- Kantianism
- W. D. Ross's prima facie duties
- Utilitarianism
- Virtue Ethics
- Ethics of Care
- Feminist Ethics
- Communitarianism

The purpose of this assignment is to give you the opportunity to think critically and dig deep to understand two ethical theories. In this exercise, the focus is on applying the intellectual standards for a thorough analysis. (Refer to this intellectual standards wheel to aid in your thinking: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/CTmodel/CTModel1.cfm#>)

Complete the following for each of the two ethical theories you choose.

1. Describe 3 basic facts about this theory.

For the next couple of questions, you need to put your theorist thinking cap on. *Think like this theorist.*

2. Give an example of a question this theorist might ask.

3. Describe the types of information these theorists use or collect.

4. What are some of the fundamental concepts that guide this kind of theorist's thinking?

5. In about a paragraph, explain how this kind of theorist might react to the following scenario:

***The nurse and informed consent**

Michael G, who is dying of leukemia, is in a hospital, where he is receiving chemotherapy. A registered nurse involved in his care, Nurse L, learns that he has never received information about alternative natural therapies. She gives Michael G the information and discusses the advantages and disadvantages of the various alternatives. After extensive reflection and consultation with his family, Michael G decides to leave the hospital and to make arrangements to try one of the alternatives therapies. He informs the attending oncologist of his decision. When the oncologist learns about the source of Michael G's information, he charges Nurse L with unprofessional conduct and asks that her nursing license be revoked. Nurse L argues

that the patient has the right to know about alternatives and that a failure to inform him vitiates his "informed consent" to the chemotherapy.

6. Compare and contrast at least 3 key things that make this theory different from the other theory you chose.
7. (Socratic questioning)(seeking clarification to understand the theory) List 3 questions that you have about this theory.

This assignment in conjunction with the corresponding discussion is worth 10 pts. **Submit your final document to the dropbox** by Thursday night (11:59 pm). On Friday, your instructor will post each individual submission to the discussion forum so you can take a look at how your classmates responded to the questions. Your submitted document will count as one post. Thus, in the ensuing discussion, you will need to post a minimum of two times in order to earn full points. The activity will be graded based upon the discussion forum rubric.

***Source:**

Degrazia, D. & Mappes, T.A., (2006). *Biomedical ethics* (6th ed.). Boston: McGraw Hill

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