

Lesson objective

- The aim of this lesson is to use the case study of Tony Bland to help you understand the arguments for and against euthanasia.

Lesson outcomes

- ALL will be able to identify the arguments for and against euthanasia.
- MOST will be able to select and justify appropriate arguments in response to the story of Tony Bland.
- SOME will be able to consider all the elements of today's lesson and decide whether they believe euthanasia should be legalised or not.

Starter

- At the end of last lesson you began to think of the arguments for and against euthanasia and wrote them on post it notes.
- You have two minutes to write down, in rough, as many of those arguments as you can remember.

Euthanasia: the arguments

- On the sheet in front of you there are some arguments FOR and AGAINST euthanasia.
- In the box, tick the FOR arguments and cross the AGAINST arguments

The arguments: Case study

- http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P_SmM9KuhIQ
- The video clip you are about to see explains what happened in the worst footballing disaster ever to occur in the UK on 15 April 1989.
- 95 people died and one - Tony Bland - was left in a coma in hospital.



Hillsborough victim allowed to die: 19 November 1992

- Doctors treating Hillsborough victim Tony Bland can disconnect feeding tubes keeping him alive, a judge at the High Court in London has ruled. Sir Stephen Brown, said there was no "reasonable possibility" that after three years Mr Bland would emerge from a coma known as a "persistent vegetative state" or PVS.
- Mr Bland's parents, Allan and Barbara, supported the doctors' court action and said they were "relieved" at the ruling.
- Tony Bland, 22, suffered severe brain damage when he and hundreds of other football supporters were crushed in an overcrowded stand at Hillsborough stadium in April 1989.
- But the lawyer appointed to act on Mr Bland's behalf argued that to withdraw food from him would be murder and said he would be appealing against the decision. Doctors have agreed to continue feeding Mr Bland until after the appeal is heard on 30 November.
- A spokesman for an anti-euthanasia group, Keith Davies, also announced its intention to contest the ruling.
- Mr Davies from Life said: "We believe this decision is unsatisfactory and we will be using every means to oppose it."



Two sides to every argument: the case for Tony Bland

- The decision to end the life of Tony Bland had to be taken by a judge.
- Choose two arguments that Tony Bland's parents would have used in favour of him being allowed to die.
- Choose two arguments that the solicitor representing Tony Bland would have used to argue against euthanasia.

Alternatives - Palliative care

- Opponents of euthanasia say that there is a better way to help people with terminal illness.
- Watch the video clip and complete the questions on the back of the sheet.

What do you think?

- "Euthanasia should be legalised"
- Give at least two reasons why you EITHER agree or disagree with this statement.

Plenary

- What do the following key words mean?
- Assisted suicide
- Non-voluntary euthanasia
- Voluntary euthanasia