

Name
Date
TOK, Period #

Knowledge at Work Analysis #1

Section 1 [RLS]: Sixty seven year old terminally ill British man, Noel Conway, suffers from a degenerative disease loses court fight which would grant him an assisted suicide.

Section 2 [KQ]: How is our perception on what should be the right outcome influenced by the circumstances we find ourselves in?

Section 3 [KP]: In this case, the knower's perspective can take a multitude of approaches in answering the knowledge question. Depending on the knower's personal bias, an opinion may be formed. In the case of Noel Conway, the man suffering the disorder, self suicide should definitely be considered a personal freedom as from his perspective, he is able to benefit from it. He thus considers it the correct outcome euthanization. The government, is not willing to accomodate his desire. From their perspective, the decision is ethically controversial, and allowing this case would open the floodgates for many others. Someone who is not suffering in a similar circumstance is far more likely to display feelings of indifference or even outright refusal of the situation. It is difficult to take an objective approach to the question as generally the possible personal gain of the individual will take the forefront as opposed to reason itself.

Section 4 [KC]:

Knowledge claim 1: A specific individual is far more likely to make self centered decisions without taking into consideration the effects that could ensue for the rest of the population.

Knowledge claim 2: A committee is far more likely to make decisions based on what is convenient for them without room for flexibility.

Knowledge claim 3: Without being able to personally connect or relate to a situation in order to make a decision, the individual is likely to show indifference towards the outcome.

Section 5 [RLS2]: The death penalty being legal, from the perspectives of those on death row, the punishment might seem excessive from their point of view. Conversely, the families affected by the criminals might see it as perfectly justified.

Collazo Note: *This is a good analysis overall. To score higher, the knowledge question in Section 2 could use some reworking for clarity, and the student should provide a more specific RLS in Section 5. It is too general. Compare this to how specific the main RLS was in Section 1, which could, by the way, use a little more explanation. The "death penalty" is a general topic (an issue), not an actual instance of its happening. Additionally, it is too similar to the first RLS in that both RLS's are described in the context of the legal system. Ideally, choose a second RLS to which the knowledge question applies that is in a completely different context (in the context of an entirely different area of knowledge).*