ARGUMENTS AND ARGUMENTATION

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Argument

- Fundamental building block of persuasion

- Collection of statements organized in a way to highlight/demonstrate connection between what is believed to be true and what should be accepted as true.

Elements of Argument

- Claim/Thesis

- Support/Proof

- Inference (result/outcome/consequence)

Examples (claim):

- "The state should allow euthanasia for terminally ill people"

    - Idea which is not yet accepted as true/proven
    - Not an argument yet

Support

- Idea/set of ideas audience accepts as true

Example: "upon death terminally ill patient's physical suffering ceases"

Inference

- Connection between claim and support

  - May be obvious or inferred directly
  - May have to emphasized

Example: euthanasia is desirable because person will be relieved
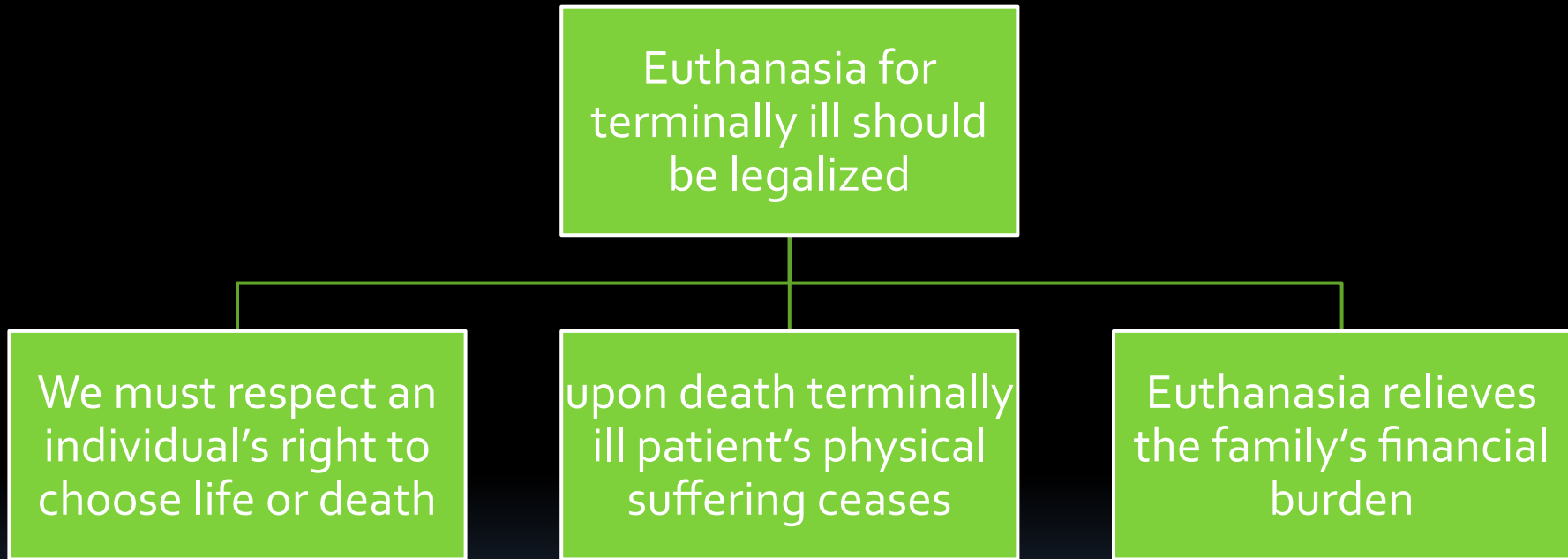
Forms of Argument

Claim

Support

Euthanasia for terminally ill should be legalized

We must respect an individual's right to choose life or death

Individual autonomy is an essential element of humanity

One claim may have a lot of various kinds of support:

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                    ┌─────────────────────┐
                    │   Euthanasia for    │
                    │ terminally ill should│
                    │    be legalized     │
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| We must respect an individual's right to choose life or death | upon death terminally ill patient's physical suffering ceases | Euthanasia relieves the family's financial burden |

Support components:

- Examples, facts, statistics, points of authority, various sources such as books, magazines, journals, records, etc.

- **LOGIC!!!**

Modes of Argumentation

- Descriptive

- Relational

- Evaluative

Definitions/descriptive argumentation

- Concerns nature and definition of things
  - e.g. "euthanasia – willful ceasing of death"
  - e.g. "euthanasia - murder"
  - e.g. "global warming is increase of earth's surface"

Creating descriptive argumentation

- Differentiation (from general class to the rest of class)

- Example (giving examples to illustrate how smth. Functions or what smth/smn is, etc.)

- Authority (how an authoritative person or entity defines smth/smn.)

- Analogies (comparing what needs to be defined to smth very similar)

Relational Argumentation

- **Relationship between things/causal relationships**

Example: "Capital punishment deters crime expansion"
"violence in mass media causes real violence"

Creating Relational Arguments

- Reduction – from general to specific or otherwise
  - E.g.: ^Harsher penalties will decline car accidents^
    - *one would be less likely to drive drunk if they knew that punishment would be a significant jail time, therefore harsher penalties are desirable.*
- Analogies – comparison of the known to the unknown
  - E.g.: ^improve health care in the USA^
    - "look at health care in Canada and United Kingdom"

Creating Relational Arguments

- Authority – reference to people who make credible assertions
  - E.g.: ^Global crisis is a worldwide disaster^
    - According to Joseph. E. Stiglitz who is Nobel Prize winner in Economy Science, global crisis is indeed a disaster with severe consequences for the whole world....

Evaluative Argumentation

- What is good/bad, desirable/undesirable, favorable/unfavourable

- Example: "*TH fears the rise of China*"

- Most resolutions are like this (Value resolutions)

Creating Evaluative Arguments

- Evaluating components and comparing them

  - E.g.: *"TH fears the rise of China"*
    - To evaluate: "rise of China" and define "fear"
    - To determine: what is bad (in this case):
    - E.g.: 1) increasing economic influence of China
      2) political clout around the world
      3) great modernizing military

Creating Evaluative Arguments

- Comparing smth to a standard/value/criteria, etc.
  - E.g.: "Capital punishment is unjustified"
    - Human rights state that no single life be taken away…
  - In this case human rights is the criterion with which we can compare "capital punishment".