**Year 12 Taster Lesson & Task**

The right to die

Watch the selected videos provided:

I Helped My Daughter Die

Right to die – Rights Enshrined

Nicklinson - The Right to Die?

Tony Nicklinson interview: Why I want to end my life

Man With 'Locked-In Syndrome' Pleads Right to Die on Twitter

Read the articles:

Let Me Die

<http://rightsinfo.org/stories/let-me-die/>

British woman denied right to die

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/1957396.stm>

Supreme Court rejects right to die appeals

<http://ukhumanrightsblog.com/2014/06/25/supreme-court-rejects-right-to-die-appeals/>

The Activity

Using the videos & articles provided, what is the state of the law in relation to the right to die?

When answering this question, you should also make reference to the recent cases of Dianne Pretty and Debbie Purdy.

What charge will a person face if they assist another to commit suicide?

For this you will need to have a look at the definition of murder and the Suicide Act 1961.

Perhaps most importantly, what do you think the main arguments for and against the right to die?

Use the videos information and the reading list to write a 500 words essay, outlining whether you think the right to die should be legalised or not? Use legal arguments (law statute & case law) to justify your position.

Outcomes

This is an interesting, albeit emotive, task which will hopefully get you thinking about some complex legal and moral issues. Most people will have an opinion on whether a person should have a right to die, so you may find it useful to discuss your findings with others once you have drawn your own conclusions.

Helpful hints

How would you define ‘the right to die’?

What criminal offences can a person be charged with if they aid someone in committing suicide? Is it illegal in European countries?

What happened in the cases of Dianne Pretty, Debbie Purdy and Tony Niklinson? What were the main legal arguments they used in their respective attempts to convince the courts that they should be allowed to die?

What are the main arguments for and against allowing a person the right to die if they are suffering from a terminal illness?

Further Reading

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/euthanasia/overview/problems.shtml>

<http://commissiononassisteddying.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/Evidence-from-Thomas-Croft-Euthanasia-and-Assisted-Suicide-a-Legal-and-Ethical-Dilemma-.pdf>

<http://sumj.dundee.ac.uk/data/uploads/volume1/SUMJVol1-p6-13.pdf>

<http://www.righttolifetrust.org.uk/downloads/education-packs/KS4Euthanasia.pdf>

<http://fds.oup.com/www.oup.com/pdf/13/9780198298687.pdf>