

Example of Ethical Problem: Capital Punishment

a.	Description of problem	Is capital punishment ethically right or wrong?
b.	Facts concerning the problem	It is illegal in Norway, but a number of countries do have capital punishment. In this century, 23 people have been executed in the USA that later turned out to be innocent of the crime they were charged with.
c.	Alternatives for action	Alternative 1 ⇒ CP is ethically right Alternative 2 ⇒ CP is ethically wrong Alternative 3 ⇒ CP can only be used in times of war
d.	Norms	«Thou Shalt not Kill» «An eye for an Eye»

Ethical Approaches

<u>Rule ethics:</u>	
Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • relatives of the victim of the crime have a right to get revenge 	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's not right to take a life under any circumstances
<u>Act ethics:</u>	
Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the protection of the public requires a stiff sentence • CP reduces the crime rate • it costs too much to keep people in prison for life, by executing murderers the state will save money 	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CP brutalises society and undermines the respect for human life • due to the right of numerous appeals, CP costs more than keeping a person in jail for the rest of his/her life
<u>Purpose / End / Objective:</u>	
Pros <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose behind supporting CP is to deter people from committing murder and let justice be done 	Cons <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose behind a rejection of CP is to promote human dignity and worth, to humanise society (violence begets violence)
<u>Intention / (State of Mind):</u>	
Pros	Cons

Conclusion
<p>After a discussion of the above arguments you will, as a basis for your opinion, make up your mind as to what is (are) the most weighty argument(s). This will decide whether you are in favour or against Capital Punishment. Then you have reached a «well funded» decision.</p>