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24.06J / STS.006J Bioethics
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First Paper Topic

Choose one of the following questions to answer. Type out the question you are answering at the top of your paper. Your paper is due in class in SES #6.

1. Emanuels, Reiser, and Lock argue that new technology in the 1960s had a major impact on end of life debates. What was the debate about withdrawal of life support? How did this debate impact the debate about euthanasia? Do you agree with these authors that new technology had a decisive impact on these debates, or do you think that other developments over the 20th century had a greater impact on end of life decision making?
2. Rachels has several arguments to the conclusion that, just as we allow doctors to practice passive euthanasia, so we should allow them to practice active euthanasia. Pick one and reconstruct it. Does it work? (It may be helpful to consider whether it is *valid* and *sound*). If you think that it does not work, can you improve upon it?
3. Did Timothy Quill behave appropriately towards Diana? What is the best argument to the conclusion that he did (think in terms of both historical and philosophical perspectives)? What is the best argument to the conclusion that he did not? Would it have been different if he had given her a lethal injection, with her consent? Why or why not?

General Guidelines:

Your papers should be 4-6 pages, double-spaced. Grading will be based on how well you answer the question, specifically your argument, use of evidence and readings, organization, and clarity. Give proper credit with citations whenever you use material (quoted or summarized) from readings or lectures; if you have questions about this, see the information at the MIT Writing Center website (<http://web.mit.edu/writing/>).