**To Die With Dignity**

Brittany Maynard, 29 years old, received worldwide attention when she died. She had been married for just one year when she was diagnosed with brain cancer. Early treatments were unsuccessful, and the cancer returned more aggressively. At this point, any treatments she would undergo would remove any quality of life she had, and even these treatments would only extend her life. In short, there was no cure. She opted for physician-assisted death (doctors prescribing medication to end her life) because she didn’t want to burden her family with medical bills, and she didn’t want to force her family to watch her die slowly and painfully. Laws in California forbade her physician from prescribing such medication, so she and her family moved to nearby Oregon. The process wasn’t easy, but she acquired the necessary medication. It allowed her to die on her own terms, with dignity, and before her death, she was able to say what she felt she needed to say about her death. Consider the moral, legal, and ethical issues involved with end-of-life choices.

*Read and carefully consider these perspectives. Each suggests a particular way of thinking about how a terminally-ill person might die.*

Perspective One Perspective Two Perspective Three

Terminally-ill patients should have the right to die with dignity. Patients and their families are already struggling with loss, and physicians can help families wield power in a time when they feel they have none.

Not only should physicians not “play at God,” but neither should the patient. If a patient has been fated to have cancer, the patient should live out that life.

**Essay Task**

Write a unified, coherent essay about the role of physicians in regard to terminally-ill patients. In your essay, be sure to

* Clearly state your own perspective on the issue and analyze the relationship between your perspective and at least one other perespective
* Develop and support your ideas with reasoning and examples
* organize your ideas clearly and logically
* communicate your ideas effectively in standard written English

Your perspective may be in full agreement with any of the others, in partial agreement, or completely different.

Physicians take the Hippocratic Oath which states, “Above all, I must not play at God.” Therefore, it would only make sense to let a terminally-ill patient die as the disease progresses.