

# Argument Analysis Tool



## ETHICAL DECISION MAKING TOOL

*\*This is not a reproducible handout as it is designed for students to replicate as a process since they may write extensively at each stage.*

Ethical problems require critical and creative thinking, ethical capabilities (Understanding Concepts and Ethical Decision-making knowledge and skills) as well as extensive knowledge of an issue to be able to argue with ‘intellectual honesty’.

### Argument Analysis presents a rigorous process of:

- Providing reasons and suggestions (may require further research)
- Producing a table that considers the truth of an issue, as well as the appropriateness and controversiality of possible solutions/decisions/actions
- Synthesis to come to a conclusion and/or make a concluding, even if temporary, decision

## DECISION MAKING TOOL

Statement outlining ethical issue (posed as a statement) under consideration:

### 1. PROVIDING REASONS AND SUGGESTIONS (MAY REQUIRE FURTHER RESEARCH)

For	Against
1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.



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## ETHICAL DECISION MAKING TOOL

### 2. ARGUMENT ANALYSIS (REASONS ABOVE EXPANDED FURTHER HERE).

Students are asked to replicate this stage for each reason/suggestion (for and against).

Reason # \_\_\_\_ :

<b>Controversial?</b> Is this reason controversial? Why?	<b>True, relevant or appropriate?</b>	<b>Kind of issue</b> What kind of issue is it? Provide an explanation	<b>Premises/Reasons</b> What further reasons do we have to support this premise/reason? Are there any assumptions present?
Yes/No/Maybe	Yes/No/Not clear Require more information or research etc	Social/Cultural Ecological Economic/Business Legal/Political Scientific	

### 3. SYNTHESIS

**Conclusion/Decision:**

Adapted from – Handbook of Conservation and Sustainability Ethics. 2012. [www.conservationethics.org](http://www.conservationethics.org)

