

Listening Questions for January 16

These questions cover an interview of Peter Singer on the topic of Life and Death Decision-Making. He is being interviewed by David Edmonds and Nigel Warburton. The answers do not have to be turned in. The questions only go up to 10:14, so you can stop listening at that point if you want. You will probably have to listen more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

This interview comes from a series in which philosophers are interviewed about the various questions they work on. In this interview Peter Singer discusses his views on euthanasia. What he has to say here is rather controversial (especially in the part you don't have to listen to), but I think it will provide a useful intro to the topic of euthanasia.

*Questions:*

1. Peter Singer thinks that we should let people make their own decisions so long as certain conditions hold. What conditions does he have in mind? Why does he think we should let people make their own decisions in these circumstances – is it because he thinks that if these conditions hold people will always make morally justified decisions or is it for some other reason? What do you think about what he says and why?
2. What does Peter Singer think the doctor's role is? Why does he think this? Do you agree and why?
3. What is the slippery slope criticism of Peter Singer's position? How does Singer respond? Do you think his response is adequate?