I. **Attention Step:** Imagine someone that you love standing in front of you and saying, “I want to die. I’ve suffered enough. I want to be free. Please let me die.” How would you feel? What do you think? Euthanasia happens in this way. Now I know what you are thinking in your head. You might think that you’ve already had much of these and might be tired of hearing them anymore... As many of you know, euthanasia is legally allowed in Oregon. In addition, some states are likely to legalize it. However, other countries’ views for euthanasia are not the same as in America. Japan is one of them. **Need Step:** Today I’m going to share with you why legalizing euthanasia is not suitable in Japan. First, I will discuss the specific cases that some people used euthanasia illegally. Then, I will discuss Japanese ethics. And finally, I will describe Japanese culture.

II. **Satisfaction Steps**

1) Specific cases used the way of euthanasia in the past

   A) According to a journal article from The Lancet, it was 1962 that euthanasia guidelines were first outlined with the history of legislation in Japan. The case was that a son helped to kill his terminally ill father. The High Court in Nagoya laid down six conditions that must be satisfied for euthanasia to be legally carried out.

   B) In another case in 1995, a doctor allowed a patient with suffering unbearable pain to die at the request of his family.

   C) Now doctors are calling for a public debate on the subject. According to Kobe University’s Maruyama Eiji, an expert on western law, “Even in the U.S. with its emphasis on individual rights, the patients’ family now has the right to decide in a case where the patient has lost consciousness. In Japan with its lack of emphasis on individual rights, and where everything is decided as a group, it would be natural that the decision should be made by the family.”

**Transition:** It is a fact that people with modernized thinking try to make euthanasia legalized in Japan. However, there has been no example allowed it until now. Most Japanese haven’t admitted it. And the basis of their
thinking is formed by their religion.

2) Japanese ethics

A) According to an article from Journal of Buddhist Ethics, in many Asian countries including Japan, Buddhism is identified as the authority par excellence on matters pertaining to death.
B) According to an article from Journal of Medical Ethics, Buddhism’s tradition opposes euthanasia in order to support a “sanctity of life” position. It is always fundamentally wrong to take human life.
C) Also, Buddhist literature emphasizes the importance of meeting death mindfully since the last moment of one life can be particularly influential in determining the quality of the next rebirth.

Transition: Japanese negative attitudes and views towards euthanasia are not only from their religion but also from their culture.

3) Japanese culture

A) Japanese culture is collective. Rather to work in corporation than an individual work is often evaluated. As the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare in Japan reports, 25% support the category of people would claim their opinions even if they were isolated. On the other hand, 50% support the category that people want to respect rather to corporate with others than to claim their opinions.
B) Japanese are also conservative. For example, silences have many meanings in Japanese society. According to Rutgers University, speaking too much is associated with immaturity or a kind of empty-headedness in Japan.
C) Japan treasures traditional thinking. It doesn’t take positive attitudes toward new things. Whenever new things are introduced, they are thought out carefully.

Visualization Step: Japanese culture can be compared to American culture. Japan is well known as one of the countries that have collective culture. On the other hand, America is individualism, positive to new attempts and
values liberty. That is to say, the opinions of individuals are respected. I was embarrassed when I first moved here because I was always asked for my opinion on anything. Then I felt the difference between two cultures afresh.

III. Action Step: Nowadays, the opinions that euthanasia should be allowed are increasing in Japan. However, there are many factors that are remote from the concept of euthanasia such as their traditional values, one’s own culture or their original ethics. That is to say, euthanasia legalization is not suitable in Japanese society. Therefore, I believe that euthanasia should not be legalized, even in the future.


