

STUDENT HANDOUT 5.3

Elements of a Strong Justification

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

A strong justification should have the following elements:

✓	A good justification includes:	Which means...
<input type="checkbox"/>	A DECISION	A position (claim) has been clearly stated. The decision relates directly to the ethical question.
<input type="checkbox"/>	FACTS	The facts and science content can be confirmed or refuted regardless of personal or cultural views. This can be used as evidence to support the claim.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS	Ethical considerations may include Respect for Persons, Maximize Benefits/ Minimize Harm, and Justice, in addition to others. This can be used as evidence to support the claim.
<input type="checkbox"/>	STAKEHOLDER VIEWS	There are a variety of views and interests in the decision and more than one individual or group will be affected by the outcome.
<input type="checkbox"/>	ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS and REBUTTALS	No one decision will satisfy all parties. A thorough justification considers strengths and weaknesses of various positions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	REASONING and LOGIC	A logical explanation that connects the evidence to the claim is provided.

For our purposes, the justification for the decision is more important than the position on the decision.