

5/13/2019

TOK Day 51

## What are some different ways of determining whether an action is ethical?

### *2. Focus on moral rules and principles.*

**Deontology** (Categorical Ethics): According to this approach, you can decide whether an action is moral or ethical based on whether it conforms to or follows a set of rules. People have a duty to do the “right” thing. This approach is often contrasted with *Consequentialism* because in this way of approaching ethics we focus on actions rather than consequences. We look at what can be known at the moment the decision is made and not after.

In deontology, you cannot justify doing something “wrong” even if it produced “good” outcomes.

Deontological ethics follow moral rules or principles to determine the standards of what is ethical.

Actions -----> Results and Consequences

*Deontologists focus on Actions*

*Consequentialists focus on Results and Consequences*

### What is a moral principle?

A moral principle is a general rule that dictates a moral or ethical behavior.

Ex. Thou shall not kill.

### 1. Where do we get moral principles from?

### 2. What are some examples of moral principles?

### **3. Universal morals?**

Immanuel Kant, a philosopher and proponent of deontology, said, "Always act in such a way that you would be willing for it to become a general law that everyone else should do the same in the same situation."

Are any of the principles you came up with true for all people at all times? Can you think any principle that is always absolutely true?

### **4. What is the strength of thinking this way about ethics?**

### **5. What are the limitations or problems of thinking this way about ethics?**