

In this demonstration, you will see how various supporting techniques can be used to develop the idea expressed in the topic sentence. In the exercise that follows, you will use the following types of supporting techniques to develop the main idea expressed in your topic sentence.

- Giving an explanation
- Giving an example
- Telling a story
- Stating the cause or the effect
- Making a prediction
- Making a suggestion

People who are suffering from incurable diseases should be allowed to die because they experience incredible pain. For example, my aunt, Susan Rodriguez, suffered from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis(ALS). Less than two years after she was diagnosed, her muscles were in such a deteriorated stage that her arms kept continuously detaching from their sockets. This dislocation caused her a lot of pain. Because she was bedridden, she also experienced terrible sores and body aches from having to lie in bed all day, every day. The immense physical pain she endured made her life unbearable.

The idea expressed in this topic sentence is supported only with a **story**. This paragraph would be better developed if the writer used a wider variety of supporting techniques, such as giving an **explanation**, stating the **cause** or the **effect** and making a **prediction** or a **suggestion**.

People who are suffering from incurable diseases should be allowed to die because they experience incredible pain. My aunt, Sue Rodriguez, was one such person. She was suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which is an incurable disease that deteriorates muscles, and takes away a patient's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe, at which point the patient is kept alive through artificial means. Less than two years after she was diagnosed, her muscles were in such a deteriorated stage that her arms kept continuously detaching from their sockets. This dislocation caused her a lot of pain. Because she was bedridden, she experienced terrible sores and body aches from having to lie in bed all day, every day. The immense physical pain she endured made her life unbearable. Our society keeps people like Sue Rodriguez alive, though they have no chances of recovering and are suffering tremendously, because of the belief that life is sacred. However, upholding this belief costs our society billions of dollars annually, which results in our budget being drained of much needed money. If the money used to provide the medical care necessary to keep these people alive were spent in medical research, many more people would benefit, and in time a cure might be found for those illnesses that are now incurable. We should not continue to spend our monetary resources on people who are suffering, have no chances of recovery, and desire to die. For their benefit and ours, let's grant them this desire.

explanation

effect

cause

suggestion

story
example

prediction

People who are suffering from incurable diseases should be allowed to die because they experience incredible pain. **My aunt, Sue Rodriguez, was one such person. She was suffering from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), which is an incurable disease that deteriorates muscles, and takes away a patient's ability to walk, talk, eat, and eventually breathe, at which point the patient is kept alive through artificial means. Less than two years after she was diagnosed, her muscles were in such a deteriorated stage that her arms kept continuously detaching from their sockets. This dislocation caused her a lot of pain. Because she was bedridden, she experienced terrible sores and body aches from having to lie in bed all day, every day. The immense physical pain she endured made her life unbearable.** Our society keeps people like Sue Rodriguez alive, though they have no chances of recovering and are suffering tremendously, because of the belief that life is sacred. **However, upholding this belief costs our society billions of dollars annually, which results in our budget being drained of much needed money.** If the money used to provide the medical care necessary to keep these people alive were spent in medical research, many more people would benefit, and in time a cure might be found for those illnesses that are now incurable. We should not continue to spend our monetary resources on people who are suffering, have no chances of recovery, and desire to die. For their benefit and ours, let's grant them this desire.

