

Examine the chart below.

	Individual Decisions I can choose, alone & without interference	Collective Decisions Choices are made by the community & are binding on all
Private Decisions My choice has no consequence for your welfare	<i>Liberty of the Individual:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should I smoke? • How much should I weigh? 	<i>Tyranny of the Majority:</i>
Public Decisions My choices affect your welfare	<i>Theft by the Minority:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking in public places • Health care for the morbidly obese. For smokers? 	<i>Liberty of the Group:</i> ?

As we have seen in class, reasonable people can disagree about where to locate issues like smoking and obesity in this chart. Some would place them in the realm of individual lifestyle choices that have no consequences for others (box 1: Liberty of the Individual). Others would consider them matters of individual choice, but for which there are public consequences (box 3: Theft by the minority). Still others would argue they belong in box 4 (liberty of the group).

Your assignment is to choose one of these issues – either smoking or obesity -- and write a 1600 word essay that argues ONE of these perspectives. Your argument should be framed in terms of the core legitimizing values we have discussed: equity, efficiency, liberty, and security.