

# Informative speech on prisoner's dilemma essay



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The prisoner's dilemma INTRODUCTION First of all, let us recall a proverb. ' One boy is one boy. Two boys are half a boy. Three boys are no boy at all. ' It also translates as ' one monk goes to drink water; two monks drinks together while three monks have no water to drink'. Now suppose you are one of the three monks, will you go far away to take water? If you do, the other two may have water to drink without effort; if you don't and nor do the other two, you all will die of thirst. This is to some extent a prisoner's dilemma, which is my topic today.

The PD is a game in game theory that shows why individuals might not cooperate, even if it appears that it is in their best interests to do so.

TRANSITION I heard the prisoner's dilemma from my economics class's teacher and later I found out this dilemma almost happen every day and everywhere, so I'd like to inform this concept to all of you. BODY Next I will explain and analyze the prisoner's dilemma and after that give examples.

The normal game form is shown as this: Suppose there are two prisoners and the police decides to sentence them by asking.

Each prisoner has two choices. Stay silent to plead guilty himself or betray the other prisoner. The punishment for each situation shows in the chart. | Prisoner B stays silent| Prisoner B betrays| Prisoner A stays silent| Each serves 1 year| Prisoner A: 3 years Prisoner B: goes free| Prisoner A betrays| Prisoner A: goes free Prisoner B: 3 years| Each serves 2 years| What will the prisoners do? The choice question comes again. If we suppose the prisoners can't talk to each other.

For prisoner B, if A stays silent (1year or 3years)B would better betray; and if A betray it's also better for B to betray. Generally B should betray. In the same way, A should betray. But what if the prisoners can talk to each other? Obviously both staying silent is better than both betraying. So far it seems that we've covered all the situations of the prisoner's dilemma. However this question can go much further and much more complicated. If the prisoners agree to stay silent at first, but one betrays when the police ask him then the other one would suffer the most terrible punishment.

If there is revenge for betrayers, one may not dare to betray. If one wants to plead guilty, he'll stay silent whatever the other one does. Now that you've had a brief view of the famous, exciting and powerful prisoner's dilemma, let me give you examples in real-life to show how it works to deserve ' exciting and powerful'. You must know the famous estate company, wanke. In the market of real estate, companies hold an agreement of the price of estate so that they can all earn a lot. Wanke, however reduced the price of its estate.

Consumers buy more apartments from wanke. Wanke earned more but was seen as a betrayer of the market. This happened in 2008 and is an example of general business competition. Holding and agreement to keep price, every company get considerable payoffs, which is cooperation; yet an individual gets higher payoffs if he reduces price, which is I betray while others choose to cooperate . And look at sport race which happens near us. In a long-distance cycling race, suppose you and Tom are about the same in strength and skill.

The one in the first place suffer more resistance from the wind. Yet the other athletes slightly after him maintain strength and might overtake near the destination. The best situation is that you and Tom take turns to be the in the first place, but if you both want to avoid to be the first one, then neither of you will have a best result at your ability. END Time is nearly up, but I bet my speech will last for a long time since you can find the prisoner's dilemma around you and compare to what I said.

You may notice that for all examples I mentioned, I never gave a solution. That is because—I can't. Each problem has much more influencing factors than I pointed out. From my analysis, you need to think deeper once you find you are in a prisoner's dilemma. One way is to give specific payoffs and costs and fill them in this chart. Finally let me end my speech with one last dilemma that I think every dear schoolmates meet. Think back to the beginning, ' Three boys are no boy at all', will you do the cleaning in your dormitory?