

$s/b = +2$, $s/o = +2$

$\frac{+14}{15}$

- 1) Facts-The car has a problem with the exhaust system causing it to produce a loud noise. The mechanic claims that it is a problem with the catalytic converter and that it needs to be replaced at a cost of \$450. You do not have the money to cover this repair.

Catalytic converters are used to prevent the emission of primary pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen monoxide, and unreacted hydrocarbons by converting them into benign gases. Nitrogen monoxide, once emitted, has been known to irritate the lungs and further agitate existing conditions such as bronchitis. This compound can also quickly oxidize to form nitrogen dioxide. Though nitrogen dioxide can also irritate lungs, it is more notoriously known for reacting with ambient water vapor to form acid rain which is responsible for millions of dollars of damage to building, vehicles, and the exterior of any outdoor object in general each year. Carbon dioxide is mainly known as the "silent killer". At concentrations above 50 ppm, this gas can be fatal with extended exposure.

excellent
+2

good!

There are branches of companies all throughout Kansas that offer emission testing. It is in fact illegal to drive without a catalytic converter installed on your vehicle. Cars manufactured after 1975 typically have catalytic converter systems and rarely need to be retrofitted.

- 2) Ethics-
 - a) is it ethically unsound to knowingly pollute the environment when evidence is available to support the notion that operating a vehicle without a catalytic converter is detrimental?
 - b) is it ethical to scrimp on the cost of installing a new converter just so you can drive your vehicle?

good
+2

to environ. + human health!

- 3) Since we all share the same air, anyone residing on this planet is affected. Unfortunately, it is you that must incur the cost for a faulty converter (if that is in fact the problem).

good

of repair

- 4) In making this decision, the noise in the car will supposedly be reduced and you would be a little less than \$450 "richer" (minus materials cost). This noise could violate noise ordinances and prompt complaints from other residences coercing you into servicing your vehicle. If you were to have your car serviced again after removing the converter, you run the risk of a technician discovering and reporting the its absence resulting in court time and costs much more than \$450. And once again, the continued emissions will pollute the atmosphere and contribute to the negation of any progress society has made in remedying it.

+2

good point - although nothing would likely happen - perhaps one could use such fears for the purpose of extortion!

5) As mentioned before, it is against the law to drive an automobile without a catalytic converter. It is our duties as citizens to abide by the established laws. It is also our duty as residents of this planet to preserve this planet and at least make an attempt to leave it as we found it.

→ hard to do, other way, but the pipe is worse!

6) I believe this was an unethical decision to make. Not only is it against the law, it has ^{an} effect on anyone who lives on this planet. The only thing you are really saving is noise. You would be better off driving with a defective converter because you are at least reduce some emissions. As far as cost goes, there are other types of converters available and other mechanics to install them. If cost is the major problem, I suggest consulting other mechanics and the model dealership for your car. Not only will you explore your options, but you will also confirm that the problem is indeed with the catalytic converter.

*what rights does the owner of a vehicle have?
- or any property for that matter
(real or perceived?)*

what about justice issues? One person doing this would have virtually no impact, but then shouldn't everyone be allowed?