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### **POLSC 240 Journal 1: Question 5**

Oftentimes we use logic to analyze problems in our society. After all, logic allows us to take a detached look at problems facing society. However, I fear we have developed an overreliance on logic because we are starting to downplay the tragedy of human suffering. This becomes especially true when applied to political theory. We believe that logic can allow us to remain ethically neutral when investigating problems, but logic actually gives us a bias towards inaction and ignorance. For instance, look at the responses of Americans towards the Syrian refugee crisis. During the event, many Americans were unsympathetic towards the large numbers of Syrians fleeing the war. After all, on a global population scale, there were relatively few people suffering. Because of this, few people in the U.S. decided to lend aid. However, this all changed after the photo of Alan Kurdi went viral. When people saw this young child's body face down on the shore, moral action began to take over. Americans broke free from the inaction of logic and started to examine this crisis through a human eye.

This is the problem with logic; it's cold and unfeeling. If we let numbers dominate our opinions, we lose perspective of what one person really means. It seems so strange to me how quickly people can minimize a tragedy with numbers. If 15 people die in a mass shooting, we will express sympathies then forget. But if we knew one of the people who died, we would demand action to ensure there are no deaths from shootings again. If only old people are affected by Covid-19, then young people don't act cautiously. But if a young person's grandparents catch Covid-19, then they are suddenly appalled by the lack of care of their friends. In all honesty, logic can too quickly become an excuse to not care. This is why logic needs to be balanced with morality and ethics.

