**COMMITTEE Research Work 1**

**Section 1:** **Topic Overview--OPINION**

*Explain your topic*

Our topic is Capital Punishment. This is the penalty of death for committing a certain crime. These criminals are eliminated by the government for the crime that they committed. Issitt, Micah L. "Death Penalty: An Overview." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Feb. 2016.

Although many countries abolished death penalty, the United states continues to use it. There are still many debates going on about capital punishment world-wide.

 Issitt, Micah, and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Ebsco Host*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.b.ebscohost.com>.

Capital Punishment is an expensive and inefficient way to prevent criminal activity.

Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Mar 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com>

The US supreme court gave the states the power to determine whether they use the Capital Punishment or not. Issitt, Micah L., and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Ebsco*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com>.

*Why does this topic interest you?*

This topic interests me because, capital punishment is not in every state, some states allow it while some do not. Capital punishment should be a nation wide consequence or should not be allowed.

This topic interests me because capital punishment is a very serious issue in the United States that many countries have struggled whether or not to abolish it. It is very interesting to learn how the government decides the punishment of criminals.

Capital punishment interest me because I like to see how the government handles issues how people should be punished, jail or the death penalty.

Capital punishment interests me because if i had someone commit such a crime to me or someone i am close with i would want them to be punished properly. And there is an interesting debate whether or not capital punishment if the proper punishment.

*What do you think are the current controversies surrounding your topic?*

Should all states use the capital punishment?

Should there not be any death penalty at all?

Is Capital Punishment a fair punishment?

How can someone be sentenced to capital punishment?

I think this because if someone is innocent and are charged for the crime and punished with the death penalty, they would be getting killed for no reason.

**Section 2: Preliminary Research**

*What is the history/origin of your topic?*

The history and origin of our topic is eighteenth century BCE. The vendetta system, a code of vengeance between tribal groups, often involved the killing of criminals. This practice eventually became part of the first legal systems. Government executions were part of societies in ancient Babylon, Greece, and Asia. In the societies, the death penalty was applied to many crimes such as property damage, practicing magic, and theft. Issitt, Micah L. "Death Penalty: An Overview." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Feb. 2016.

This is where the idea of Capital Punishment came from, even though it has changed a lot during time. For example, they use it for much more serious crimes now compared to the crimes they used it for back then.

Issitt, Micah, and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Ebsco Host*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.b.ebscohost.com>.

Executions were practiced as early as 18th century BCE. By 1612, many colonies approved execution as the punishment for crimes ranging from murder to theft. Between 1776 and 1800, Thomas Jefferson recommended restricting capital punishment to cases involving treason and murder. In 1794, the Pennsylvania legislature restricted capital punishment for murder in the first degree. In 1846, Michigan became the first state to abolish the death penalty and others followed.

“Capital Punishment.” *Encyclopedia. Issues & Controversies.* Infobase Learning, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2016.<infobaselearning.com>.

By 1975, thirty states had reinstated the death penalty in a manner which satisfied the federal courts.

Issitt, Micah L., and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Points of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com>

*What are the issues/problems regarding your topic?*

There are issues/ problems regarding our topic. For one, if a person is charged for a crime that they did not commit, and is killed by the death penalty for it, it is not right. The person was innocent and should not have been killed since they did not commit the crime. This is a major issue because the government or sate would be killing an innocent person. Issitt, Micah L. "Death Penalty: An Overview." N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Feb. 2016.

Along with the concerns about the accuracy of the court systems, a large number of studies shows that racial bias plays a huge role in whether a convicted crime receives capital punishment. Many people question whether or not this is appropriate and if one hundred and five countries have already ended it, why has the United States not?

Witherbee, Amy. "Point: Crime or Punishment? The Argument Against Capital Punishment." *Ebsco Host*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>.

* Racial Bias
* False accusations- irreversible
* Unconstitutional
* Ineffective- many people committed may already want to die- therefore not punishing them
* “Capital Punishment.” *Encyclopedia. Issues & Controversies.* Infobase Learning, n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2016.<infobaselearning.com>.

Some errors of execution led to people wrongly convicted(innocent person.) Used for vengeance(revenge,) not justice.

Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Mar 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com>

**Section 3: Narrow your Focus**

*As a group, which specific issue/problem will you focus on?*

The death punishment is unconstitutional and should be abolished for all states.

*Create a Preamble for that issue/problem*

We the congress people, agree that capital punishment is unconstitutional regarding all crimes no matter what the crime may be, therefore we abolish the death penalty in the United States.

**Section 4: Supportive Evidence**

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| Type of evidence | Supportive Facts | Significance | Citation |
| Statistic | The cost of the present system with recommendations by the Commission to ensure a fair process would be $232.7 million per year.  | By eliminating the death penalty, tax costs and over all costs will significantly go down since as you can see the death penalty is already costing over 200 million dollars. We already know the death penalty is against human rights and unconstitutional so why are we pushing to pay so much for something that is going against the constitution?  | "Costs of the Death Penalty." *Costs of the Death Penalty*. Death Penalty Information Center, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Statistic | Texas, with over 300 people on death row, is spending an estimated $2.3 million per case, but its murder rate remains one of the highest in the country. | As you can see the death penalty is not stopping nor lowering the amount and number of murders or capital crimes in the state. They are paying a lot of money to keep the death penalty in motion and allowed in the state. This is unreasonable because Texas is charging the citizens higher taxes for a concept that is not even working to stop capital crimes. | Dieter, Richard C. "Millions Misspent: What Politicians Dont Say About the High Costs of the Death Penalty." *Millions Misspent: What Politicians Dont Say About the High Costs of the Death Penalty*. Death Penalty Information Center, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Statistic | Using only cases in the study, the gross bill to taxpayers for the death penalty will be about $120 million. Washington has carried out five executions since reinstatement, implying a cost of $24 million per execution.  |  These numbers are very high so, abolishing the death penalty will lower taxes by a lot and if anything the government will be gaining money, not loosing money. | "Costs of the Death Penalty." *Costs of the Death Penalty*. Death Penalty Information Center, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016 |
| Current Event | The death penalty is the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights. By working towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide aims to end the cycle of violence created by a system mixed with economic and racial bias and tainted by human error.  | This shows that people feel the death penalty is going against everything we believe in. Allowing the death penalty and practicing it is against all human rights. | "Abolish the Death Penalty." *Amnesty International USA*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Statistics | In contrast, a 2010 poll conducted for DPIC by Lake Research Partners found that 61 percent of US voters preferred alternative sentences such as life without parole over a death sentence. Thirty-three percent of those surveyed said they favored the death penalty over offered alternatives. | This shows that more people in the United States believe that the death penalty is not a fair punishment and we should choose and give people a different punishment. More citizens believe the death penalty should not be used as a punishment for crimes. | Richey, Warren. "Death Penalty Less Common in US Now than in 1990s, Report Finds." The Christian Science Monitor, n.d. Web. 2 Mar. 2016. |
| Court Cases | A federal judge, named Cormac J. Carney, believes that capital punishment is unconstitutional. He brought his case to court to decide whether or not capital punishment should be abolished. He claims that it violates the 8th amendment.  | The significance of this is to prevent people from being killed for no reason because it violates one of our amendments and it is very unfair to the people.  | Drehle, David Von. "Bungled Executions. Backlogged Courts. And Three More Reasons the Modern Death Penalty Is A Failed Experiment. (cover Story)." *Ebsco*. Time Inc., 2015. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com> |
| Court Cases | Oliver v. Quarterman: A federal appeals court found that East Texas jurors were influenced by religious beliefs during deliberations in a capital murder case, but there isn't enough evidence to show they were when they decided to send the Oliver to death row. | The death penalty can often be influenced by a juries religious beliefs therefore, not being given at proper times.  | Issitt, Micah L., and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Ebsco*. N.p., n.d. Web. 17 Feb. 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com>.  |
| Constitutional Connection  | Article 1, section 8, clause 18 states that the congress has the power to to make any law that is necessary. They have the power to expand their powers and make any changed needed in their nation.  | This is important because it it saying that if the congress thinks abolishing capital punishment is necessary, they have the power to do it. According to different articles and amendments the death penalty is not constitutional therefore congress has the power to abolish it.  | The constitution.  |
| Legislation | New Jersey abolished the death penalty because they say the death penalty is a cruel and unusual punishment according to the constitution. | This shows that capital punishment is cruel and unusual. Therefore we should abolish it not only in states but nation wide. | "New Jersey." *New Jersey*. Death Penalty Information, n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Current Events |  According to Capital Punishment should be abolished, “In the 2005 case of Roper v. Simmons, is unconstitutional use of capital punishment for crimes committed while the criminal was under the age of eighteen, and a similar case which banned executions of the mentally retarded.” | This is important because under age kids should not get the death penalty so all people should not get the death penalty. | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Feb 24 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com>.  |
| Current Events | According to Capital Punishment should be abolished,“A 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in Kennedy v. Louisiana, however, abolished the death sentence of a man convicted of raping a child, effectively holding that states may only use the death penalty in murder cases only.” | This is important because they almost gave him the death sentence when he was innocent. | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. Feb 24 2016<web.b.ebscohost.com>.  |
| Statistics  | From 1995-1996, the proportion of people who were innocent and mistakenly chosen to be executed grew from 15% to 30%.  | This is important because it shows how many innocent people are constantly being killed since it is very easy to make a mistake in crime scenes.  | Woolf, Alex. *Capital Punishment*. United States: Chrysalis Education, 2004. Print..<web.a.ebscohost.com>> |
| Statistic  | In Louisiana, the odds of a death sentence were 97% higher for those whose victim was white than for those whose victim was black.  | This shows that race can often play a factor in your sentencing, giving a person an unfair verdict and/or punishment. And if a person is being deprived of their life, skin tone should have nothing to do with it, yet it does.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Constitutional Connection | Amendment 8 states that cruel and unusual punishment is not permitted nor can be inflicted.  | Capital punishment is a cruel punishment that should not be permitted in the United States, therefore we should abolish the death penalty | The Constitution |
| Statistic | Since 1973, more than 150 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.  | This shows how man people are falsely accused and how mistakes are very often made. How ever, if they had gone through with the death sentencing, they would have taken someones life who had been innocent.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Statistic | According to Capital punishment should be abolished, “Since the 1977 resumption of capital punishment in the United States, nearly 1,100 convicted prisoners have been put to death in the thirty-eight US states where the practice remains legal. As of the beginning of 2007, approximately 3,350 people remain on death row in American prisons.” | This shows that too many people are going on death row and that people should be put to jail instead of their life being taken away. | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Feb 25 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| Statistic | Numerous studies have estimated that 2-7% of U.S. prisoners are likely to be innocent | This shows that if almost 1/13 of prisoners are falsely accused, how do we know the people being sentenced to death aren't falsely accused. Except where as a falsely accused person if found innocent later on can be let out of jail, giving a person a death sentence is irreversible. | "Orthodox Jewish Organization Calls for an End to Capital Punishment in the U.S." *Orthodox Jewish Organization Calls for an End to Capital Punishment in the U.S.* N.p., 17 Feb. 2016. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org>.  |
| Statistic | Since 1973, more than 150 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence.  | This shows how man people are falsely accused and how mistakes are very oftenly made. How ever, if they had gone through with the death sentencing, they would have taken someones life who had been innocent.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Constitutional connection  | Capital Punishment violates our human rights because Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3 says “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of a person,” Article 5 says “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”  | This is important because these articles protect us from going through any torture and gives us the right to life, capital punishment is violating these rights.  | Barber, Nicola. *The Death Penalty*. New York: Rosen Central, 2013. Print. |
| Study | A study in California found that those who killed whites were over 3 times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who killed blacks and over 4 times more likely than those who killed Latinos.  | This shows how people may be persuaded or influenced to give a sentenecing bases on race.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Statistic  | Over 75% of the murder victims in cases resulting in an execution were white, even though nationally only 50% of murder victims generally are white. | This shows how race plays a role in sentencing and may be favoring whites, | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Article/study | Defense costs for death penalty trials in Kansas averaged about $400,000 per case, compared to $100,000 per case when the death penalty was not sought. | A trial in Kansas that involves death penalty can be 4x the price of a normal trial. | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Statistics | For every 7 executions-486 since 1976-1 other prisoner on death row has been found innocent | That the jails do not know if the person is really guilty. | "The Ethics of Capital Punishment." *Alibris*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Current Event | Cantu was convicted of capital murder, and in 1993, the Texas teen was executed due to him being sentenced to the death penalty. About 12 years after his death, investigations show that Cantu likely didn’t commit the murder. Again Texas made a mistake and killed someone who was innocent. | They are killing innocent people. | "Cameron Todd Willingham - Innocent and Executed "The Only Statement I Want to Make Is That I Am an Innocent Man Convicted of a Crime I Did." N.p., n.d. Web. 29 Feb. 2016. |
| Statistics | Out of the 3,500 inmates who are currently on death row, at least 14 percent are innocent. Most of the time, these people are black which is racial bias.  | This shows that just because they are black they decide to use them as targets and kill them even if they are innocent.  |  Whitaker, Charles. "The Death Penalty Debate: Are We Killing Innocent Black Men?" *Ebsco Host*. Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com> |
| Current Events | Cantu was convicted of capital murder, and in 1993, the Texas teen was executed due to him being sentenced to the death penalty. About 12 years after his death, investigations show that Cantu likely didn’t commit the murder. Again Texas made a mistake and killed someone who was innocent. | Again Texas made a mistake because the death penalty was legal. | "8 People Who Were Executed and Later Found Innocent - AvvoStories."*AvvoStories*. N.p., 04 May 2010. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Constitutional Connection  | Amendment 14 states that you must treat everyone equally and the laws apply to everyone the same no matter what race, religion, color, gender, etc. If they are going to use this mostly based on racial bias, then it is unfair and must be abolished.  | This is important because they can’t favor one religion over another and they are favoring some over others.  | Constitution |
| Legislation  | Professor David Protess studies capital punishment. He has so far, proved four death penalties that were convicted to the wrong person. He states that many places are beginning to abolishing it and soon, capital punishment will exist in the past only.  | This is important because many states are abolishing it because it kills innocent people.  |  Stephen, Andrew. "Even Bush Won't Kill the Innocent." *Ebsco*. New Statesman, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Court Case | A Texas court executed Carlos DeLuna in 1989. Later, finding evidence that casts a strong doubt on DeLunas guilt. Making him possibly innocent.  | This shows how innocent people could be getting killed for crimes they did not commit or crimes that do not require such harsh punishment, | "Executed But Possibly Innocent." *Executed But Possibly Innocent*. N.p., n.d. Web. 01 Mar. 2016. <[deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/executed-possibly-innocent)>. |
| Article/study | Enforcing the death penalty costs Florida $51 million a year above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole. Based on the 44 executions Florida had carried out since 1976, that amounts to a cost of $24 million for each execution.  | This shows how the death penalty is costing us way more than what sentencing a person to prison for life would be in Florida. | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Study | The most comprehensive study in the country found that the death penalty costs North Carolina $2.16 million per execution over the costs of sentencing murderers to life imprisonment. The majority of those costs occur at the trial level  | This shows how the death penalty is costing a lot more than life imprisonment would cost in North Carolina.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Study/article | In Texas, a death penalty case costs an average of $2.3 million, about three times the cost of imprisoning someone in a single cell at the highest security level for 40 years. | This shows how the death penalty is costing a lot more than other serious punishments would cost in Texas.  | *Facts about the Death Penalty*. Washington, DC: Death Penalty Information Center, 1999. *Death Penalty Information Center*. Web. 22 Feb. 2016. <deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>. |
| Statistics |  ”A 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in Kennedy v. Louisiana, however, abolished the death sentence of a man convicted of raping a child, effectively holding that states may only use the death penalty in murder cases only.”  |  This shows that someone innocent almost had the death penalty.Point: Capital Punishment should be abolished | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. March 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| quote | “The longer we continue to support this expensive and failed policy, the more we fall short of our values as a people.”- Martin O’Mally. | Martin is saying that he thinks the death penalty is against our values and should not be continued. Martin is the governor of Maryland. The death penalty is going against our values as a country and as people.  | "Election 2016: All 13 Candidates Positions on the Death Penalty." *Election 2016: All 13 Candidates Positions on the Death Penalty*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2016. |
| Statistics | “The development of DNA evidence has brought about a deluge of cases throughout the country in which people convicted of crimes are later proven innocent. Among these are 111 death row inmates who, since 1973, were released from prison after being found innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted.”  | This proves that if the death penalty was given to these people they were innocent. | Witherbee, Amy. "Crime or Punishment? The Argument Against Capital Punishment." *Points of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com>. |
| Statistics | “Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” stated, “Capital punishment is useless as a deterrent, morally indefensible, discriminatory in practice, and prone to errors that may have led to the execution of wrongfully convicted people.”  | Wrongfully accused people received the death penalty which shows that they should have never died so in conclusion the death penalty should be abolished.  | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Mar 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| Statistics | “Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “In addition, death penalty is described as an expensive and inefficient way to prevent criminal activity.”  | This proves that the death penalty is a lot of money and it is not worth it. | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Mar 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| Statistics | “The Death Penalty Information Center” Stated, “New York reinstated the death penalty in 1995. In 2004, the state's high court overturned the law. Eventually, all 7 death sentences that had been imposed were overturned. No one was executed. The legislature repeatedly rejected attempts to reinstate the death penalty. During the time when the law was in effect, NY spent about $170 million over 9 years, producing no final death sentences or executions.” | The death penalty is so expensive and not even used, its not worth it. | "Costs of the Death Penalty." *Death Penalty Information Center*. N.p., 7 Jan. 2015. Web. 02 Mar. 1 2016. <www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty 3/1/16>. |
| Statistics | “The Supreme Court should bring the United States in line with the rest of the civilized world and hold that death is a cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Eighth Amendment” | This shows that the constitution also believes this punishment is cruel and unusual.  | "Costs of the Death Penalty." *Death Penalty Information Center*. N.p., 7 Jan. 2015. Web. 02 Mar. 1 2016. <www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty 3/1/16>. |
| Statistics | “Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “In recent years, the evidence has shown that the death penalty process consumes tremendous amounts of money and resources and fails to deter criminals.”  | This proves that the amounts of money to use the death penalty is crazy because its fails to deter criminals. | Ballaro, Beverly, and Ames C. Cushman. "Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished." *Points Of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web.Mar 1 2016 . <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| Statistics |  “It is time for the Court to restore America’s moral and human rights leadership in the world by going the rest of the distance and finally agreeing that death is a cruel and unusual punishment for any crime.”  |  This shows that the death penalty does not show leadership for America. | Witherbee, Amy. "Crime or Punishment? The Argument Against Capital Punishment." *Points of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 1 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com> |
| Statistics |  “Additionally, a botched lethal injection given to an inmate on death row in Oklahoma attracted an especially large amount of national—and international—attention to the United States’ capital “punishment standards and procedures in 2014. This event, combined with another chaotic execution performed in Ohio earlier in the year, raised further concerns and questions regarding the types of drugs used as well as the definition of “cruel and unusual” punishment.” | This proves that lethal injecttion looks bad for our country all over, it is cruel and unusual, it should be abolished. | Issitt, Micah L., and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Points of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.b.ebscohost.com>. |
| quote | “Numerous other studies of capital punishment laws around the country have also found that death penalty charges are more likely when a victim is white than a minority.”-Andrew Huggins  | This is important because capital punishment is based on racial bias most of the time which is very unfair to those who are discriminated against.  |  Huggins, Andrew Welsh. "Ohio Death Penalty Committee Looks at Racial Bias." *Ebsco*. AP Regional State Report, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| statistics | On February 3, 1997, a vote to 280 to 119, declared that capital punishment is very strongly affected by racial bias. | This is important because many agree that racial bias plays a huge role in capital punishment which could be killing an innocent person.  | Wayne, Jim. "Racial Bias in Capital Sentencing." *Ebsco*. America Press Inc., 1999. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |

**Section 5: Opposing Evidence**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Type of evidence | Opposing Facts | Significance | Citation |
| Statement  | Convicts serving life [sentences](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) can still kill guards and other inmates.Convicts who escape, often commit [murder](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) and other violent acts against innocent people. Also, when a murderer is sentenced to [life without parole](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218), it does not mean that he will carry out that entire sentence.  | This shows that the death penalty is necessary for the safety of others.  | Lowe, Wesley. "Capital Punishment Protects Public Safety More Effectively than Does Life Imprisonment." *Capital Punishment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. |
| Current event | “Kenneth McDuff, for instance, was convicted of the 1966 shooting deaths of two [boys](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) and the vicious rape-strangulation of their 16-year-old female companion. A Fort Worth jury ruled that McDuff should die in the electric chair, a sentence commuted to life in prison in 1972 after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as then imposed.” | This is again showing that laws change and life in prison is just not good enough. The congress change laws every day and prisoners in jail for life sentences may be released due to laws. Killing them will keep the country safer!  | Lowe, Wesley. "Capital Punishment Protects Public Safety More Effectively than Does Life Imprisonment." *Capital Punishment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. |
| Statistics | Public polls regularly reveal that at least 50 percent of the American people want the death penalty for crimes of murder. | People in the survey are saying that they want the death penalty for anyone who commits a crime of murder. These people feel that if you take a life, yours should be taken too. | Bowman, Jeffrey. "Counterpoint: The Death Penalty Is Necessary." N.p., n.d. Web. 28 Feb. 2016. |
| current event | “In 1962, James Moore raped and strangled 14-year-old Pamela Moss. Her parents decided to spare Moore the death penalty on the condition that he be sentenced to life in prison without parole. Later on, thanks to a change in sentencing laws in 1982, James Moore is eligible for parole every two years!”  | Because of changing laws criminals can become eligible for a change in their sentencing. This does not mean it has to happen but the death penalty could stop this from happening since they will not be alive to get this chance.  | Lowe, Wesley. "Capital Punishment Protects Public Safety More Effectively than Does Life Imprisonment." *Capital Punishment*. N.p., n.d. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. |
| Current Events | According to “Defending the death penalty”,“Geoghan was beaten and strangled to death in his prison cell by a fellow inmate, a convicted murderer, in August 2003. If Massachusetts had the death penalty this wouldn’t have happened.” | The Death Penalty can insure that murderers never kill again. | Pierce, Matt. "Defending the Death Penalty." *Point of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Court Cases | In 1968, Kenneth Allen McDuff was sent to court for murdering someone for the fourth time. His punishments in the past were just going to jail but they decided after the fourth time to make the punishment more severe. They gave him capital punishment and this helped because if he was still alive, more people would have been murdered.  | This is important because it shows how capital punishment reduced the risk of people being murdered. If the killers aren’t alive, less people are killed.  | Pearce, Matt. "Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty." *Ebsco*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Current Events. | According to “The Death Penalty is Necasary”, “In the 2007 case of Uttecht vs. Brown, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 decision that the state can remove jurors from serving on death penalty cases if they have moral objections to capital punishment. However, Justice Kennedy wrote in his dissent that the death penalty is becoming increasingly problematic since juries do not represent citizens who object to the death penalty.” | This quote shows that jurors can be removed if they have any disbelief in the death penalty. | Bowman, Jeffrey. "The Death Penalty Is Necessary." *Points of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Constitutional Connection | Article one section 8 clause 18 states that the congress is permitted to make any laws necessary to benefit the country.  | Some congress men believe capital punishment is necessary for our country so they have the power to keep capital punishment and leave it up to the states to decide weather to keep it or abolish it. | The Constitution |
| Constitutional Connection  | Amendment 10 reserves the left over powers for the state. This gives the states the power to choose whether or not capital punishment is allowed in their state so they can’t pass any law abolishing it for the entire country.  | This amendment is very important because the central government should not have the right to take away the powers reserved to the states and make a law like abolishing capital punishment. | The constitution. |
| Statistic | Two studies by Paul R. Zimmerman, a Federal Communications Commission economist, also support the deterrent effect of capital punishment. Using state-level data from 1978 to 1997, Zimmerman found that each additional execution, on average, results in 14 fewer murders. | This shows how the death penalty is benefiting people and out country by helping reduce the amount of murders in America. | Muhlhausen, David. "The Death Penalty Should Not Be Abolished." *Criminal Justice*. Ed. Noël Merino. Detroit: Greenhaven, 2013. Opposing Viewpoints. Rpt. of "The Death Penalty Deters Crime and Saves Lives." Vol. 271. N.p.: n.p., 2007. N. pag. Web. 25 Feb. 2016. <ic.galegroup.com>.  |
| Court case/example | McDuff was first sentenced to death in 1968 for three murders he had committed.McDuff’s sentence was commuted to life in prison. He was paroled in 1989. During his parole, he killed 4 other women. He was then after sentenced to death. | If they had kept the original death penalty, 4 women might not be dead right now | Pearce, Matt. "Counterpoint: Defending The Death Penalty." *Points Of View: Death Penalty* (2015): 6. *Points of View Reference Center*. Web. 25 Feb. 2016 <web.b.ebscohost.com>. |
| Statiastics |  According to “Defending the death penalty”,“Capital punishment is a certain deterrent for those who need to be deterred the most: the murderers themselves. Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does.”  | The death penalty ensures that murderers never murder again so the execute them. | Pierce, Matt. "Defending the Death Penalty." *Point of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Statistics | “For certain crimes, the only just punishment is the death penalty. Capital punishment ensures that murderers never murder again, and provides justice for murder victims and their families. | This shows that their is justice for victims families because they know the person that killed their family member can never kill anyone else again. | Pierce, Matt. "Defending the Death Penalty." *Point of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| Statistics |  “Capital punishment is a certain deterrent for those who need to be deterred the most: the murderers themselves. Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does.”  | The death penalty ensures that murderers never murder again so the execute them. | Pierce, Matt. "Defending the Death Penalty." *Point of View Reference Center*. Great Neck Publishing, 2015. Web. 1 Mar. 2016. <web.a.ebscohost.com> |
| quote | “ Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does.” - Matt Pearce | This is important because it shows how murderers will never murder because the now know they will be killed if they do.  | Pearce, Matt. "Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty." *Ebsco*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>. |
| statistics | In 2011, the murder rare was 18% higher than in states without capital punishment.  | This is important because states who don’t use capital punishment have more murders showing that the death penalty reduces the amount of murders.  | Issitt, Micah, and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." *Ebsco*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.b.ebscohost.com>. |

**Section 6 & 7: Supportive and Opposing Arguments**—

***Cite your sources***

Kallie Kantanas

**Main Argument**: The death penalty can be killing someone innocent.

Evidence:

“Point: Capital Punishment should be abolished” states, ”A 2008 ruling by the Supreme Court in Kennedy v. Louisiana, however, abolished the death sentence of a man convicted of raping a child, effectively holding that states may only use the death penalty in murder cases only.” This shows that someone innocent almost had the death penalty.Point: Capital Punishment should be abolished

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=5&sid=81852009-f699-4bae-9333-7a3fa1b97746%40sessionmgr102&hid=115&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh

“Point: Crime or Punishment? The Argument Against Capital Punishment” stated, “The development of DNA evidence has brought about a deluge of cases throughout the country in which people convicted of crimes are later proven innocent. Among these are 111 death row inmates who, since 1973, were released from prison after being found innocent of the crimes for which they were convicted.” This proves that if the death penalty was given to these people they were innocent.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=7&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=12437715&db=pwh

“Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” stated, “Capital punishment is useless as a deterrent, morally indefensible, discriminatory in practice, and prone to errors that may have led to the execution of wrongfully convicted people.” Wrongfully accused people received the death penalty which shows that they should have never died so in conclusion the death penalty should be abolished.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh

**Main Argument**: The death penalty is expensive.

Evidence:

“Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “In addition, death penalty is described as an expensive and inefficient way to prevent criminal activity.” This proves that the death penalty is a lot of money and it is not worth it.

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh>

“Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “In recent years, the evidence has shown that the death penalty process consumes tremendous amounts of money and resources and fails to deter criminals.” This proves that the amounts of money to use the death penalty is crazy because its fails to deter criminals.

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh>

“The Death Penalty Information Center” Stated, “New York reinstated the death penalty in 1995. In 2004, the state's high court overturned the law. Eventually, all 7 death sentences that had been imposed were overturned. No one was executed. The legislature repeatedly rejected attempts to reinstate the death penalty. During the time when the law was in effect, NY spent about $170 million over 9 years, producing no final death sentences or executions.” The death penalty is so expensive and not even used, its not worth it.

http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty

Main Argument: The death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment.

Evidence: “Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “The Supreme Court should bring the United States in line with the rest of the civilized world and hold that death is a cruel and unusual punishment prohibited by the Eighth Amendment” This shows that the constitution also believes this punishment is cruel and unusual.

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=20&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh>

Evidence:”Point: Capital Punishment Should Be Abolished” states, “It is time for the Court to restore America’s moral and human rights leadership in the world by going the rest of the distance and finally agreeing that death is a cruel and unusual punishment for any crime.” This shows that the death penalty does not show leadership for America.

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=20&sid=420949aa-3a90-445b-98ff-ae77f723dcce%40sessionmgr112&hid=125&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=26612501&db=pwh>

Evidence: According to, ”Death Penalty: An Overview” stated, “Additionally, a botched lethal injection given to an inmate on death row in Oklahoma attracted an especially large amount of national—and international—attention to the United States’ capital “punishmentstandards and procedures in 2014. This event, combined with another chaotic execution performed in Ohio earlier in the year, raised further concerns and questions regarding the types of drugs used as well as the definition of “cruel and unusual” punishment.” This proves that lethal injecttion looks bad for our country all over, it is cruel and unusual, it should be abolished.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=8&sid=2a44b081-aee8-4439-945d-256759e8ee3c%40sessionmgr110&hid=115&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=22841133&db=pwh

Opposing: The death penalty ensures the proper punishment.

1. According to “Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty,” ”Justice is only achieved when a crime is met with the proper punishment.” This proves that the death penalty is justice for peple.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=25&sid=2a44b081-aee8-4439-945d-256759e8ee3c%40sessionmgr110&hid=115&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=12437718&db=pwh

1. “Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty” states, “For certain crimes, the only just punishment is the death penalty. Capital punishment ensures that murderers never murder again, and provides justice for murder victims and their families. “ This shows that their is justice for victims families because they know the person that killed their family member can never kill anyone else again.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=25&sid=2a44b081-aee8-4439-945d-256759e8ee3c%40sessionmgr110&hid=115&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=12437718&db=pwh

1. “Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty” states, “ Capital punishment is a certain deterrent for those who need to be deterred the most: the murderers themselves. Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does.” The death penalty ensures that murderers never murder again so the execute them.

http://web.b.ebscohost.com/pov/detail/detail?vid=25&sid=2a44b081-aee8-4439-945d-256759e8ee3c%40sessionmgr110&hid=115&bdata=JnNpdGU9cG92LWxpdmU%3d#AN=12437718&db=pwh

**Section 6 & 7: Supportive and Opposing Arguments**—

***Cite your sources***

Jordyn Zucker

**Main Argument**: Most people and citizens want to abolish the death penalty because they feel it is not right and goes against human rights and beliefs.

* A 2010 poll conducted for DPIC by Lake Research Partners found that 61 percent of US voters preferred alternative sentences such as life without parole over a death sentence. Thirty-three percent of those surveyed said they favored the death penalty over offered alternatives. This shows that more people in the United States believe that the death penalty is not a fair punishment and we should choose and give people a different punishment. More citizens believe the death penalty should not be used as a punishment for crimes. http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/NewsDetailsPage/NewsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=News&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search\_within\_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CA245011853
* “The longer we continue to support this expensive and failed policy, the more we fall short of our values as a people.”- Martin O’Mally. Martin is saying that he thinks the death penalty is against our values and should not be continued. Martin is the governor of Maryland. The death penalty is going against our values as a country and as people. <http://www.ncadp.org/blog/entry/election-2016-all-13-candidates-positions-on-the-death-penalty>
* The death penalty is the ultimate, irreversible denial of human rights. By working towards the abolition of the death penalty worldwide aims to end the cycle of violence created by a system mixed with economic and racial bias and tainted by human error. This shows that people feel the death penalty is going against everything we believe in. Allowing the death penalty and practicing it is against all human rights. http://www.amnestyusa.org/our-work/campaigns/abolish-the-death-penalty

**Main Argument**: Some citizens may be given the death penalty as a punishment, but there is a possibility that they are innocent.

* For every 7 executions-486 since 1976-1 other prisoner on death row has been found innocent. The judges convict a person for a crime based upon evidence but they do not know 100% that the person is guilty. Therefore, when judges convict a person guilty and give them the death penalty as a punishment they might be convicting an innocent person. The Ethics Of Capital Punishment.
* On March 10, 2015, evidence proved that [Willingham, a man sentenced to the death penalty for arson murder was wrongfully convicted](http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/letter-from-witness-casts-further-doubt-on-2004-texas-execution/2015/03/09/d9ebdab8-c451-11e4-ad5c-3b8ce89f1b89_story.html) and that Texas executed an innocent man. Texas killed an innocent man because the death penalty is legal in Texas. Abolishing the death penalty will make sure that this never happens again. <http://camerontoddwillingham.com/> and http://stories.avvo.com/crime/murder/8-people-who-were-executed-and-later-found-innocent.html
* Cantu was convicted of capital murder, and in 1993, the Texas teen was executed due to him being sentenced to the death penalty. About 12 years after his death, investigations show that Cantu likely didn’t commit the murder. Again Texas made a mistake and killed someone who was innocent. [8 People Who Were Executed and Later Found Innocent - AvvoStories http://stories.avvo.com/crime/murder/8-people-who-were-executed-and-later-found-innocent.html#ixzz41UaDDTu8](http://stories.avvo.com/crime/murder/8-people-who-were-executed-and-later-found-innocent.html#ixzz41UaDDTu8)

**Main Argument**: The death penalty is expensive!

* Using only cases in the study, the gross bill to taxpayers for the death penalty will be about $120 million. Washington has carried out five executions since reinstatement, implying a cost of $24 million per execution. These numbers are very high so, abolishing the death penalty will lower taxes by a lot and if anything the government will be gaining money, not loosing money. <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty>
* The cost of the present system with recommendations by the Commission to ensure a fair process would be $232.7 million per year. By eliminating the death penalty, tax costs and over all costs will significantly go down since as you can see the death penalty is already costing over 200 million dollars. We already know the death penalty is against human rights and unconstitutional so why are we pushing to pay so much for something that is going against the constitution? <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/costs-death-penalty>
* Texas, with over 300 people on death row, is spending an estimated $2.3 million per case, but its murder rate remains one of the highest in the country. As you can see the death penalty is not stopping nor lowering the amount and number of murders or capital crimes in the state. They are paying a lot of money to keep the death penalty in motion and allowed in the state. This is unreasonable because Texas is charging the citizens higher taxes for a concept that is not even working to stop capital crimes. http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/millions-misspent

**Section 7: Opposing Arguments**—***Cite your sources***

**Main Argument**: Capital punishment will keep the public safer more then a life sentence with not parole

* Convicts serving life [sentences](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) can still kill guards and other inmates.Convicts who escape, often commit [murder](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) and other violent acts against innocent people. Also, when a murderer is sentenced to [life without parole](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218), it does not mean that he will carry out that entire sentence. This shows that the death penalty is necessary for the safety of others. <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218>
* “In 1962, James Moore raped and strangled 14-year-old Pamela Moss. Her parents decided to spare Moore the death penalty on the condition that he be sentenced to life in prison without parole. Later on, thanks to a change in sentencing laws in 1982, James Moore is eligible for parole every two years!” Because of changing laws criminals can become eligible for a change in their sentencing. This does not mean it has to happen but the death penalty could stop this from happening since they will not be alive to get this chance. <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218>
* “Kenneth McDuff, for instance, was convicted of the 1966 shooting deaths of two [boys](http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218) and the vicious rape-strangulation of their 16-year-old female companion. A Fort Worth jury ruled that McDuff should die in the electric chair, a sentence commuted to life in prison in 1972 after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty as then imposed.” This is again showing that laws change and life in prison is just not good enough. The congress change laws every day and prisoners in jail for life sentences may be released due to laws. Killing them will keep the country safer! <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/ovic/ViewpointsDetailsPage/ViewpointsDetailsWindow?failOverType=&query=&prodId=OVIC&windowstate=normal&contentModules=&display-query=&mode=view&displayGroupName=Viewpoints&limiter=&u=livi56479&currPage=&disableHighlighting=false&displayGroups=&sortBy=&source=&search_within_results=&p=OVIC&action=e&catId=&activityType=&scanId=&documentId=GALE%7CEJ3010009218>

**Section 6 & 7: Supportive and Opposing Arguments**—

***Cite your sources***

Olivia Coughlin

 **Main Argument**: Capital Punishment is unconstitutional.

Evidence:

* In 1972, a federal judge named Cormac J. Carney stated that death penalty is unconstitutional. He brought his case to court to decide whether or not it should be abolished. He claimed that it violates the 8th amendment.

 Drehle, David Von. "Bungled Executions. Backlogged Courts. And Three More Reasons the Modern Death Penalty Is A Failed Experiment. (cover Story)." *Ebsco*. Time Inc., 2015. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>

* According to Article 1, section 8, clause 18 of the constitution, states that the congress has the power to to make any law that is necessary. They have the power to expand their powers and make any change needed in their nation. So if they believe capital punishment is necessary then they can’t keep using it as a punishment.

The Constitution

* Capital Punishment violates our human rights because Articles 3 and 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Article 3 states that “Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of a person,” According to article 5, “No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.”

Barber, Nicola. *The Death Penalty*. New York: Rosen Central, 2013. Print.

**Main Argument**: If they make a mistake, they are killing an innocent person.

Evidence:

* From 1995-1996, the proportion of people who were innocent and mistakenly chosen to be executed grew from 15% to 30%.

Woolf, Alex. *Capital Punishment*. United States: Chrysalis Education, 2004. Print..

<web.a.ebscohost.com>>

* Out of the 3,500 inmates who are currently on death row, at least 14 percent are innocent. Most of the time, these people are black which is racial bias.

Whitaker, Charles. "The Death Penalty Debate: Are We Killing Innocent Black Men?" *Ebsco Host*. Johnson Publishing Company, Inc., n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>

* Professor David Proteus studies capital punishment. He has so far, proved four death penalties that were convicted to the wrong person. He states that many places are beginning to abolishing it and soon, capital punishment will exist in the past only.

Stephen, Andrew. "Even Bush Won't Kill the Innocent." *Ebsco*. New Statesman, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>.

**Main Argument**: A lot of the time, death penalty is based on racial bias, or mental disorders.

Evidence:

* Amendment 14 states that you must treat everyone equally and the laws apply to everyone the same no matter what race, religion, color, gender, etc. If they are going to use this mostly based on racial bias, then it is unfair and must be abolished.

The Constitution

* “Numerous other studies of **capital** **punishment** laws around the country have also found that death penalty charges are more likely when a victim is white than a minority.”- Andrew Huggins

 Huggins, Andrew Welsh. "Ohio Death Penalty Committee Looks at Racial Bias." *Ebsco*. AP Regional State Report, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>

* On February 3, 1997, a vote to 280 to 119, declared that capital punishment is very strongly affected by racial bias.

Wayne, Jim. "Racial Bias in Capital Sentencing." *Ebsco*. America Press Inc., 1999. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>

**Section 7: Opposing Arguments**—***Cite your sources***

**Main Argument**: Capital Punishment can decrease the amount of murders.

Evidence:

* In 1968, Kenneth Allen McDuff was sent to court for murdering someone for the fourth time. His punishments in the past were just going to jail but they decided after the fourth time to make the punishment more severe. They gave him capital punishment and this helped because if he was still alive, more people would have been murdered.

Pearce, Matt. "Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty." *Ebsco*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>.

* “ Life sentences always leave open the possibility of a killer getting a chance to kill again. The death penalty never does.” - Matt Pearce

Pearce, Matt. "Counterpoint: Defending the Death Penalty." *Ebsco*. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.a.ebscohost.com>.

* In 2011, the murder rare was 18% higher than in states without capital punishment.

Issitt, Micah, and Heather Newton. "Death Penalty: An Overview." Ebsco. Great Neck Publishing, n.d. Web. <web.b.ebscohost.com>.

**Section 6 & 7: Supportive and Opposing Arguments**—

***Cite your sources***

McKenna Prial

**Main Argument: The person might be innocent.**

* Numerous studies have estimated that 2-7% of U.S. prisoners are likely to be innocent. This shows that if almost 1/13 of prisoners are falsely accused, how do we know the people being sentenced to death aren't falsely accused. Except where as a falsely accused person if found innocent later on can be let out of jail, giving a person a death sentence is irreversible.
* Since 1973, more than 150 people have been released from death row with evidence of their innocence. This shows how man people are falsely accused and how mistakes are very often made. How ever, if they had gone through with the death sentencing, they would have taken someones life who had been innocent.
* A Texas court executed Carlos DeLuna in 1989. Later, finding evidence that casts a strong doubt on DeLunas guilt. Making him possibly innocent. This shows how innocent people could be getting killed for crimes they did not commit or crimes that do not require such harsh punishment.

**Main Argument: May be unfairly given based beliefs or race**

* In Louisiana, the odds of a death sentence were 97% higher for those whose victim was white than for those whose victim was black. This shows that race can often play a factor in your sentencing, giving a person an unfair verdict and/or punishment.
* Oliver v. Quarterman: A federal appeals court found that East Texas jurors wrongly used a Bible during deliberations in a capital murder case, but there isn't enough evidence to show they were prejudiced when they decided to send the Oliver to death row, a federal appeals court has found. The death penalty can often be influenced by a jury's religious beliefs therefore, not being given at proper times.
* A study in California found that those who killed whites were over 3 times more likely to be sentenced to death than those who killed blacks and over 4 times more likely than those who killed Latinos. This shows how people may be persuaded or influenced by race.

**Main Argument**: **The cost is high**

* Enforcing the death penalty costs Florida $51 million a year above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole. Enforcing the death penalty costs Florida $51 million a year above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole. Based on the 44 executions Florida had carried out since 1976, that amounts to a cost of $24 million for each execution.
* Defense costs for death penalty trials in Kansas averaged about $400,000 per case, compared to $100,000 per case when the death penalty was not sought.A trial in Kansas that involves death penalty can be 4x the price of a normal trial.
* The most comprehensive study in the country found that the death penalty costs North Carolina $2.16 million per execution over the costs of sentencing murderers to life imprisonment. The majority of those costs occur at the trial level. This shows how the death penalty is costing a lot more than life imprisonment would cost in North Carolina.

**Section 7: Opposing Arguments**—***Cite your sources***

**Main Argument**: Insures that criminal will not harm anyone again

* McDuff was first sentenced to death in 1968 for three murders he had committed.McDuff’s sentence was commuted to life in prison. He was paroled in 1989. During his parole, he killed 4 other women. He was then after sentenced to death. If they had kept the original death penalty, 4 women might not be dead right now.

**Optional: Section 8 Government Spending**

“To create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” The budget has two large spending categories, **mandatory** and **discretionary**. Mandatory spending is required by law on specific programs. After those programs are paid for, the president and Congress may use the remaining money for discretionary spending on programs they choose. Each year, roughly 30 percent of the federal budget is in discretionary spending. (Note-taking format done with your group)

1. Indicate whether your Bill’s spending will be discretionary or mandatory?

Our bills spending will be discretionary. All states must obey and it is not prohibited to be used as a punishment. The policy does not need money to fund, if anything it is saving money so, the money if needed will come from discretionary.

B: Indicate the Department/Agency Budget Source and any other information you may have found that will provide government spending information:

 Funding will come from Government Discretionary Spending Budget if needed.

**Bibliography:**

**Part I:** **Topic Overview** (You will work as a group to gather info but Part I must be in your own words)

1. ***Explain your topic (3- 5 sentences)***
* What is the specific issue?
* What is your bill proposing to do?
* Who is involved with your specific issue?
* Why is this topic of national interest?

The specific issue is death penalty. My bill proposes Federal law across the USA The federal laws said that states decides for the death penalty .Who is involved with my issue is the criminal, court, ACLU. This is a topic national interest because its a very serious issue people have strong feelings about this topic. “For example there is no way out of the death penalty once you kill someone you can't get their life back.” someone may have been innocent but he is killed anyways.

***2. Why does this topic interest you? (3-5 sentences)***

* Do you have any background knowledge of your topic? If so, explain.
* What particular event, news article or current event sparked your interest in this topic?

No, I do not have any background knowledge about this topic. But I have learned about this topic I learned this topic by reading articles and discuss this topic in class. A particular event that happened is the Boston Marathon because he did a wrong thing a very wrong thing but he was under age for the death penalty. The Boston marathon was when a 17 year old killed many people.He may of been tried as adult but he is not an adult.

***3***.***What do you think are the current controversies surrounding your topic? (3-5 sentences)***

* Is your topic currently in the news?
* Who/what groups of people are involved with your topic?
* What are some of the different opinions regarding your topic?

 Yes, this topic is currently in the news should the death penalty be legal. The groups that are involve in this topic is the court, ACLU, and the criminals. There are different opinions regarding this topic. it should be equal and no it should not be equal.Equal so everyone has the same rights.

**Part II: Preliminary Research**

You must use the Media Center Model Congress Pathfinder to look for research based on your topic. Use sources such as:  **Ebscohost, Points of View, Issues and Controversies, Gail: Opposing Viewpoints** to help start your research

1. **What is the history/origin of your topic? *(At least two paragraphs) (3-5 sentences)***
* Why has your topic become a national concern?
* Are there specific events that led to your topic coming to the forefront of national issues?
* Is there a specific geographic region within the United States where your topic began?

 This topic become a national concern because it's a very serious punishment some people could be killed for something they didn't do like Furman vs Georgia and Gregg vs Georgia. Yes there are specific events that led to my topic furman vs Georgia and Gregg vs Georgia. No There is not a specific geographic region within the united states cause each sates has it own laws.

2.**What are the issues/problems regarding your topic? *(Include a minimum of 3 problems/issues, 5-7 sentences)***

* Does your topic involve a specific group of people?
* Is one particular problem/issue bigger than the others?
* Where are the problems/issues mostly taking place?

 Yes there are groups involved with my topic like ACLU, government, court, criminals. Yes there are problems bigger than others like innocent people being put to death, the cost for the killing or racism towards African Americans.Yes there are problems mostly taking place like in Georgia.

Problem one is it is very expensive for the drugs for the death penalty. Problem two is too many people are being sentenced to death for crimes they did not commit. Problem three is racism towards African Americans.

**Part III: Narrow your Focus**

1. *Which specific issue/problem will you focus on?* ***(3-5 sentences)***
* From the above listed 3 problems, which one is most concerning?

 The most concerning problem is many people are being sentenced for crimes they didn't even committed is it a very considering and important issue. This issues is one of the most discussed problem about this topic.

1. *Create a Preamble for your bill: (1 sentence*

***Preamble:*** an introductory statement; preface; introduction (*dictionary.com)* Preambles begin with: to prohibit; to require; to enforce;

**To prohibit capital punishment in the United States.**

**Part IV: Supportive Evidence**

Types of evidence could include the following: (At least **6** Pieces of Evidence Required)

* **2 Statistics #’s (studies, polls/surveys, and research results)**
* **2 Constitutional Connections (5 Basic Principles, Amendments, Bill of Rights)**
* **1Court Case relating to topic (Who, What, Where, When, Why)**
* **1 Previous, existing, and/or pending Legislation (Laws)**
* **Additional supporting evidence: Current events (news article, journal article, magazine article, blog)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** | **Citation** |
| 1.8th Amendment | Cruel unusual punishment | That the death penalty was in violation of this(Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted) | <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/eighth_amendment> |
| 2.Studies |  A new study in California revealed that the cost of the death penalty in the state has been over $4 billion since 1978. Study considered pretrial and trial costs, costs of automatic appeals and state habeas corpus petitions, costs of federal habeas corpus appeals, and costs of incarceration on death row. (Alarcon & Mitchell, 2011). | The death penalty costs more money to impose than keeping a criminal in jail for life | <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/eighth_amendment> |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** | **Citation** |
| 3.Statistics | According to a survey of the former and present presidents of the country’s top academic criminological societies, 88% of these experts rejected the notion that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to murder. (Radelet & Lacock, 2009 | Murder rates do not decline even with the death penalty in place | <https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/eighth_amendment> |
| 4.**Court case** | During Mr. Wood's Death penalty he was being executed with the drug cocktail. and he was suppose to die in 10 minutes but hi died in 2 hours. Who know how many more are sentenced the same penalty will die by an inexperienced executor  | Cruel and unusual punishment according to the 8th amendment  | <<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>>./ |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevance to your topic** | **Citation** |
| 5. 14th amendment | It says in the 14th amendment that everyone born or naturalized in this country is equal but African Americans are being targeted for the death penalty  | Death penalty is racist against African Americans | http://deathpenalty.procon.org |
| 6. Quote | [Russ Feingold](http://deathpenalty.procon.org/viewsource.asp?ID=6721), JD*US Senator from Wisconsin*"...Since the reinstatement of the modern death penalty, 87 people have been freed from death row because they were later proven innocent. That is a demonstrated error rate of 1 innocent person for every 7 persons executed. | People who are innocent get killed for crimes they did not commit at all | <http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=002000> |
| 7. Statistic | More than 130 people who had been sentenced to death have been found not guilty | Innocent people are being put to death | http://deathpenalty.procon.org/ |
| 8. Quote9. Statistic | As stated by [Raymond A. Schroth, SJ](http://deathpenalty.procon.org/viewsource.asp?ID=6922) *Jesuit Priest and Community Professor of the Humanities at St.* “The fatal constitutional infirmity in the punishment of death is that it treats 'members of the human race like animals "Retribution is just another word for revenge, and the desire for revenge is one of the lowest human emotions nonhumans”Savings from abolishing the death penalty in Kansas, for example, are estimated at $500,000 for every case in which the death penalty is not sought1 | The death penalty treats humans like animals. Humans are not animals.It costs more to keep someone on death row than in prison for life this money could instead be better spent on measures that are of much greater benefit to the criminal justice system- greater policing, education, and other crime-prevention measures that are far more cost-effective | <http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=002000>**http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/capital-punishment/house-supports-death-penaltyd** |

**Part V: Opposing Evidence**

Types of evidence could include the following: (At least 6 Pieces of Evidence Required)

* **2 Statistics #’s (studies, polls/surveys, and research results)**
* **2 Constitutional Connections (5 Basic Principles, Amendments, Bill of Rights)**
* **1Court Case relating to topic (Who, What, Where, When, Why)**
* **1 Previous, existing, and/or pending Legislation (Laws)**
* **Additional supporting evidence: Current events (news article, journal**
* **article, magazine article, blog)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** |
| 1. Statistic | As reported by time magazine, an estimated 2,000,000 people in the United States have been victims of crimes, from assault to murder. With insufficient laws to address this problem or the lack of teeth in these laws, criminals become careless and bolder to commit heinous crimes because of the leniency in punishments and loopholes in the justice system. For these reason, there is a need for death penalty. | Unless there are severe consequences for crimes like murder, than people will continue to commit them. | ht[tp://greengarageblog.org/list-of-10-biggest-death-penalty-proons-and-cs](http://greengarageblog.org/list-of-10-biggest-death-penalty-pros-and-cons) |
| 2. Research Study (Statistic) | Advocates of death penalty cite examples on how imposing the death sentence or abolishing it have affected crime rate. According to a study conducted in the late 1960’s, there was a 7% crime rate increase on the years when this law was abolished | Crime decreases when the death penalty is an option for punishment | <http://greengarageblog.org/list-of-10-biggest-death-penalty-pros-and-cons> |
| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** |
| 3. Poll | A 2010 poll by Lake Research Partners found that a clear majority of voters (61%) would choose a punishment other than the death penalty for murder | Percent of that would chose something over death penalty |  |
| 4.statistic | The ancient mesopotamian code of Hammurabi (1760 Bce) was one of the first examples of a city forming a religious-secular code of rules for citizens to follow | if they break it they will be sentenced to death | http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=002000 |

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| **Types of Evidence** | **Supportive Information-Facts** | **Significance-Relevant to your topic** | **Citation** *(use EasyBib--add source as you go)* |
| 5.Court case | In the 18th century philosophers and politicians alike addressed these questions about the death penalty and the modern concept of prison | Prior to prisons, the majority of crimes, including theft or pouching, were punished by death | http://deathpenalty.procon.org/view.resource.php?resourceID=002000 |
| 6.Quote | "Society is justly ordered when each person receives what is due to him says [J. Budziszewski, PhD](http://deathpenalty.procon.org/viewsource.asp?ID=6050)*Professor of Government and Philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin* | Appropriate consequences should be the result for specific actions. | http://idebate.org/debatabase/debates/capital-punishment/house-supports-death-penalty |

**Part VI: Supportive Arguments**

What are the **three** main reasons/arguments that **SUPPORT** your topic AND choose the **TWO** best pieces of evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument For:Death penalty is cruel and unusual punishment**

Evidence 1: **It goes against the 8th amendment. the 8th amendment states** (Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted) The death penalty is unconstitutional

Evidence 2: Individuals that administer the death penalty are not adequately trained which result in cases like Mr. Joseph Wood III taking two hours to die

Evidence 3: Violates the right to life as declared in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

**2.Main Argument Against: Innocent people are put to death**

**Evidence 1:**According to Huffingtonpost.com researchers found that 149 people were cleared in 2015 for crimes they did not commit

**.**

**Evidence 2:**Rolando Cruz and his co defendant Alejandro Hernandez served more than 10 years on Illinois death row for a murder they did not commit. DNA testing later proved they were innocent.

**Evidence 3:**[Russ Feingold](http://deathpenalty.procon.org/viewsource.asp?ID=6721), JD *US Senator from wisconsin stated* "...Since the reinstatement of the modern death penalty, 87 people have been freed from death row because they were later proven innocent. That is a demonstrated error rate of 1 innocent person for every 7 persons executed.

3. **Main Argument For: It cost more money to use the death penalty then keeping the criminals in jail for life**

**Evidence 1:**Cases without the death penalty cost $740,000, while cases where the death penalty is sought cost **$1.26 million**

**Evidence 2:**The death penalty cost more than $1million dollar per case

**Evidence 3:** Instead of paying money to kill people to kill people it could be used money to increase education for convicted criminals and violence prevention program

**Part VII: Opposing**

What are the **two** main reasons/arguments **OPPOSING** your topic AND choose the **TWO** best pieces of evidence to support those reasons/arguments?

1. **Main Argument Against**:**The punishment should fit the crime**

**Evidence 1:**The death penalty has 100% success rate in preventing the criminal from committing another horrific crime

**Evidence 2:**According to the late Professor Ernest Van Den Haag of Fordham University “people fear nothing more than death. Therefore, nothing will deter a criminal more than death.”

1. **Main Argument Against:** **It is unconstitutional to prohibit the states from enforcing the death penalty (10th Amendment)**

**Evidence 1: 10th amendment** “The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people.”

**Evidence 2:** It is unconstitutional not to allow the states to determine their own laws regarding Capital Punishment, that is

**Part VIII: Government Spending**

“To create a new program, the government normally gets the money either by cutting funds to an existing program OR by raising taxes.” The budget has two large spending categories, **mandatory** and **discretionary**. Mandatory spending is required by law on specific programs. After those programs are paid for, the president and Congress may use the remaining money for discretionary spending on programs they choose. Each year, roughly 30 percent of the federal budget is in discretionary spending. (Note-taking format)

1. Indicate whether your Bill’s spending will be discretionary or mandatory?

Discretionary

B: Indicate the Department/Agency Budget Source and any other information you may have found that will provide government spending information:

Funding for Bill #699 will come from the Federal Discretionary budget of the Department of Justice. Less than 1% of the Department of Justice budget will fund research to support this bill.

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