



<http://deathpenalty.procon.org/>

## Should the Death Penalty Be Allowed?

Over 1,200 people have been executed in the US since 1977, primarily by means of lethal injection. Most death penalty cases involve the execution of murderers although capital punishment can also be applied for treason, espionage, and other crimes.

Proponents of the death penalty say it is an important tool for preserving law and order, deters crime, and costs less than life imprisonment. They argue that retribution or "an eye for an eye" honors the victim, helps console grieving families, and ensures that the perpetrators of heinous crimes never have an opportunity to cause future tragedy.

Opponents of capital punishment say it has no deterrent effect on crime, wrongly gives governments the power to take human life, and perpetuates social injustices by disproportionately targeting people of color (racist) and people who cannot afford good attorneys (classist). They say lifetime jail sentences are a more severe and less expensive punishment than death.

Using this ProCon website, which has facts, statistics, and viewpoints from both sides of this issue, as well as the Taking Sides article, **take a position and write a persuasive essay over the question, should the death penalty be allowed?**

Be specific by backing up your position with evidence: statistics, facts, quotes, court case decisions, studies, etc. Don't just argue your point, but also argue why the opposing view's position is wrong or misguided in your view.

### Requirements:

- 3-4 pages
- typed
- double-spaced
- 12-pt. font size, Times New Roman font
- must have a title to your paper
- must include specific quotations from the reading that are correctly cited in-text
- refer to the attached rubric for more specifics as to what I will be looking for

**Persuasive Essay Rubric**

**INTRODUCTION and CONCLUSION (15pts)** – How well did you start your paper and summarize your position? Do you have a clearly stated thesis? How well did you end your paper and summarize your position?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.)** – Did you use specific examples from the reading, the ProCon site, and other handouts to back up your argument? Do you use specific quotes from the reading and website? Do you argue why the opposing view's position is wrong?

0            10            20            30            40            50            \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSUASIVENESS (15 pts.)** – How persuasive was your argument?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**GRAMMAR, PUNCTUATION, SPELLING (15 pts.)** – Did you proofread your paper to make sure there weren't any errors? Correct use of in-text citations?

0            5            10            15            \_\_\_\_\_

**MISC. (5 pts.)** – Is your paper the required length? Title? Typed? Correct font?

0    1    2    3    4    5            \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_ /100**