



<http://gun-control.procon.org/>

## Should more gun control laws be enacted?

The United States has 88.8 guns per 100 people, or about 270,000,000 guns, which is the highest total and per capita number in the world. 22% of Americans own one or more guns (35% of men and 12% of women). America's pervasive gun culture stems in part from its colonial history, revolutionary roots, frontier expansion, and the Second Amendment, which states: "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Proponents of more gun control laws state that the Second Amendment was intended for militias; that gun violence would be reduced; that gun restrictions have always existed; and that a majority of Americans, including gun owners, support new gun restrictions.

Opponents say that the Second Amendment protects an individual's right to own guns; that guns are needed for self-defense from threats ranging from local criminals to foreign invaders; and that gun ownership deters crime rather than causes more crime.

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 more gun control laws be enacted?**

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**HISTORICAL CONTENT (50 pts.)** – Did you use specific examples from the reading, the ProCon site, and other handouts to back up your argument?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**