

I am glad i chose to
write

Economics



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

I am hoping that now that you have read my paper you will take all points into consideration and possibly have a change of mind. I did not realize when I started writing this paper all the negative the death penalty has.

I am glad I chose to write about this topic it really brought a lot of things into the light for me. The last point I am going to point out for my essay is that the death penalty violates human rights. All people have the right to life, and we all have the right to be free from harsh, inhuman, and degrading punishment. These are human rights that people have, no matter what they have done or the kind of crimes they have committed. A lot of time the people facing death row end up getting there by the system not giving them their whole process.

The U. S. death penalty system has also failed to protect the innocent, from 1973 through December 2014, 150 innocent people were executed from death row. (Angelos, 2018) I just don't think this is a chance worth taking, because once someone is killed there is no coming back if later down the road the courts find out they were wrongfully accused. Sometimes jury members have trouble convicting someone if they know they are going to be one of the reasons that a human being is sentenced to their death. Many states require any jury members to be questioned during the pre-trial phase to be sure they have the stomach to sentence someone to death before they're allowed to attend. Even if they're against the death penalty, they still could lie to get on the board to try and help the person on trial not receive the death penalty. Most of the time judges will take a less harmful approach and sentence them to a life behind bars.

This to some people may seem like justice has not been served for the victims' families, but most of the time they are just happy to be done with this tragic event in their life and be able to move past it. If a person is sent to death row it is a very long drug out process for both sides and this can make it even harder for families to be able to move past this tragic event. The U. S. court system goes to huge measures before allowing a death sentence to be agreed on. All the appeals, motions, hearings, briefs, etc. control much of the time of judges, attorneys, and other court employees as well as use up courtrooms & facilities. The murderer's family has to suffer from seeing their loved one put to death by the state, as well as going through the emotionally draining court process. The victim's innocent family is apparently suffering already from losing their loved one and then they have to be in court multiple times to convict the murderer. By administering a death sentence, you force another family to suffer.

" Why double the suffering when we don't have to"? (Messerli, 2012).

I think the death penalty also sends the wrong message. Its like why kill people who kill people to show that killing is wrong? Yes, we want to make sure there is accountability for the crime; however, the death penalty has a message of " You killed one of us, so we'll kill you". The state is using a murder to punish someone who committed a murder. Does that make sense? To me that just sends a confusing message especially to our younger society.

We as a nation must move away from the " eye for an eye" revenge approach if civilization is to develop. It is vital to send a message to the world that striking back at your enemy strictly for vengeance will always make

matters worse. It also serves zero purpose for the victim or their families. It does not bring the person who was murdered back to life. So, what are we achieving by killing someone? The only thing it does is cause more pain to the families of both the victim and the murderer. These families are having a hard-enough time accepting what has happened.

The family of the murderer must wonder why they did it, where they went wrong, and how did they not see the signs something was wrong. On the other hand, the families of the victim are dealing with why this happened to their loved one and why did they not protect them better. In addition, believe it or not both families are dealing with the loss of their loved one; one by death and the other by life in prison.

People also like to think that having the death penalty in their state will help to lower crime rates. The reason they think this is logical they think it scares people into not wanting to commit crimes that could possibly lead them to their death. As much as we all wish this was true it is actually quite the opposite.

The Times reports that 10 of the 12 states without the death penalty have homicide rates below the national average, while half of the states with the death penalty have homicide rates above. Throughout the last 20 years, the homicide rate in states with the death penalty has been 48% - 101% higher than in states without the death penalty. (Konrad, 2016). When comparing states with the death penalty and states without, most of the states who have the death penalty show murder rates higher than states that do not have the death penalty. The average of murder rates between death penalty states

was 5.5, while the average of murder rates among non-death penalty states was only 3.

6. These numbers seem as though they are backwards and should be flipped around, but the sad truth is people murder regardless of the consequence they are going to receive. That's another reason why I feel letting them sit in jail the rest of their lives and think about what they did is more beneficial than just executing them.

Does the death penalty cause closure for the victim's families? This is a question that many people ask, and some believe to be true. They think a life for a life is fair, right? Well that couldn't be further from the truth according to recent studies that were done on families of the victims they say there is no such thing as closure no matter if the person is dead or alive. A 2012 study decided families were able to move on sooner; because their loved ones' killers were sentenced to life without parole, rather than the death penalty.

The families were not retraumatized in the numerous appeals that often come along with an execution. (Santhanam, 2017). The first reason I am against the death penalty is because it actually cost more to have someone put on death row and executed than it does to just let them rot in prison for the rest of their lives. According to the Huffington post the price of execution drugs is now 15 times higher than it was a year ago. (Safdar, 2012).

Another article I read from the Marshall project stated that the cost of housing an inmate who is on death row costs \$49,380 per year vs an inmate
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who is a general population prisoner which cost \$ 24, 690a year. (Chamma, 2014).

The death penalty is a law that people are 100 percent for or despise 100 percent, there is no in between. People who get the death penalty in the states that it is legalized in are the ones who do something horribly wrong, for example murder someone, or rape another adult or child. I personally am against the death penalty for a number of reasons. I chose to write my argumentative essay on making the death penalty illegal in every state no matter what the circumstance. When I first set out to write this paper my views on this topic were 100 percent different.

But I honestly feel that them spending the rest of their life rotting in jail is much more rewarding than getting the easy quick way out of the horrible thing they have done.