

Jessica Long

Age: 15, Grade: 9

School Name: Mountain Brook Junior High School, Mountain Brk, AL

Educator: Esther Ruth Beenken

Category: Critical Essay

Death Penalty

Abolishing the Death Penalty

The death penalty has been around since 1608. The Death Penalty is a capital punishment killing a person for their crime. Many think that the death penalty is a good consequence for a horrible crime, but in my opinion I believe that the death penalty should be abolished because it eliminates the chance of rehabilitation, it does not address the issue of crime in society, and finally it is prone to human error and discrimination and killing innocent people.

First, the death penalty causes many issues throughout our country and our world. The death penalty needs to be abolished because it eliminates the chance of rehabilitation for the criminals. I think that a criminal can change their life around, although it might be hard, I think they can do it. The death penalty ends their life. The criminal has no chance of trying to fix the past and become a better person. Their life is over. According to the US National Library of Medicine, psychiatrists believed that lots of criminals killed with the death penalty had lots of mental issues. Without those people being killed, then they could have gotten the right treatment. Although sometimes a criminal won't be able to have a successful life outside of jail, the criminal can fix what's possible for them to fix. The death penalty is making sure no criminals get a second chance at life. It is "inhuman." The criminal also has no chance to ask for forgiveness from the victim's family and the situation never really ends.

Secondly the death penalty needs to be removed because it is prone to human error and discrimination. According to the article *Should the Death Penalty be Abolished?* It states, "Since 1976, death sentences are more likely to be given if the murder victim is white or if the defendant is poor." It's been known to have less fortunate people get convicted for a crime they did not do. It's just the wrong place at the wrong time. Over 120,000 people a year get incarcerated for the wrong reasons. It's just wrong. Innocent people are dying for no reason. But the wealthier victim, especially with the right lawyer, the criminal who may not be a criminal but is poor will get prison time or even death. There is no justification for what's right. The discrimination is not justification for the crime but it's only for the sentence. In these issues, the problem is never the crime but who gets in prison or the death sentence. Finally according to the death penalty information center, it stated that in 2001, the death penalty was more likely successful to proceed against defendants with white victims. This concludes that the death penalty gives death to wrongfully convicted people and is full of discrimination. This needs to be changed.

To conclude, the death penalty is wrong for so many reasons and needs to be changed. It does not address the issue of crime in society. The death penalty is very inhuman to our society. It does not matter the crime, two wrongs do not make a right. Killing someone is wrong no matter what the circumstance is. It most of the time only affects mentally ill people and people in prison for bad crimes. Clearly there is no justification for horrible crimes but killing is not an option and should not be an option. It is used as an option for control but not for justification. Only control. It does not deter crime according to HumanrightsCareers.

In conclusion, I believe that the death penalty should be abolished because it eliminates rehabilitation, it is prone to human error and discrimination and it does not address the crime in society.