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College English

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Annotated Bibliography 1

"The Slow Death of the Death Penalty." The Economist. The Economist Newspaper, 26 Apr. 2014. Web. 26 Jan. 2015. <http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21601270-america-falling-out-love-needle-slow-death-death-penalty>.

Amnesty International states that America eradicates more people because of the death penalty than any other country besides China, Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Capital punishment or the death penalty has become less common in America due to high costs, decreasing murder rates, and undependability of juries. The governors and legislators of states are trying to abolish the death penalty because it is no longer practical. It costs more to execute a serious criminal than it does to place them in a prison for life because of all of the appeals that criminal would go through if they were to be killed through a lethal injection. As one goes through all of these appeals the jury has to make a decision whether or not that the accused individual was guilty. In the past many people think that many individuals have been wrongly accused and have been executed for no reason. Today less and less people are in favor of the death penalty because of these reasons and many people predict that the death penalty will be nonexistent in the near future.

This article gave terrific information and was very reliable because of all of the statistics and charts it uses to support the information within the paragraphs. As an individual reads through the article it is easy to see that it is very biased. This article on the death penalty is only against the death penalty because it only lists the negatives of the death penalty and did not have any good things to say about it. All of the statistics are against capital punishment as well. The Slow Death of the Death Penalty is mainly trying to get the viewer to be persuaded to be against the death penalty by using all of the negative statements throughout the article.

I personally think that this resource was very helpful. It had a wide variety of credible information that was backed out by charts and statistics throughout the article. I can definitely use some of the facts in this article for the part of my paper that is against the death penalty because all it talks about is the cons of capital punishment. It also made me think that the death penalty shouldn’t be used because the article persuaded me to think that the death penalty is a bad thing.

Annotated Bibliography 2

Gillespie, Nick. "Why the Death Penalty Needs to Die." The Daily Beast. Newsweek/Daily Beast. Web. 27 Jan. 2015. <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/07/31/why-the-death-penalty-needs-to-die.ht

According to the Innocence Project in the past fifteen years eighteen people that were trialed as guilty and were sentenced to the death penalty had had their lives saved because they were found innocent, but consequently served a combined 229 years in prison. This along with my other factors has made the death penalty less and less popular with the citizens of America. Today many people think the death penalty wastes money, is ineffective, isn’t moral, and creates the possibility of killing an innocent individual. Taxpayers are very unhappy with capital punishment especially in California because between 1980 and 2012 California spent $4 billion just to execute 13 people. It now costs more to execute a serious criminal than it does to just keep them in jail for life and on top of that the death penalty hasn’t affected the murder rate. Most murders are on accident or not planned. They occur because of drugs, alcohol, or mental illnesses so it has no way of controlling the murder rate because the number of murderers that planned to kill someone is less than the number of unplanned murders. As whole the death penalty is pointless and serves no purpose to America as a society for many reasons, but still has remained a very controversial subject for decades.

Why the Death Penalty Needs to Die by Nick Gillespie was a very useful article that explained information well, used specific detail, and used a number of statistics to explain how the death penalty is useless to Americans. This article and the previous article I used in my bibliography were very similar they both contained a lot of the same exact information. Each of them explained that the death penalty was pointless and listed all of the cons that came with such punishment. After examining this article most people would think that this article is very reliable because almost all of the main points that are engraved in the article are backed up by statistics that government organizations created. This source is a little biased because it is listing the views of one specific group and is only listing the cons that come with the death penalty. It does not list any positives that come with capital punishment. This article was aiming to get people to believe that the death penalty is only a bad thing and it does a great job doing so by only listing the cons of execution.

This article fits in very well with the research that I have done so far because it adds some extra information that I can use for my website. It had great statistics and explained the cons of the death penalty in more depth than the previous article I annotated. It gave me a much simpler explanation of the cons of capital punishment. It was written in a way I can understand so it was very helpful to me. Overall Why the Death Penalty Needs to Die gives me a good view on the cons of the Death Penalty and can be used in my research project because of the great statistics it uses. It has made me personally lean more towards that the death penalty should no longer be used. It is not right and just is useless to us humans because it wastes so much money and does not benefit us.

Annotated Bibliography 3

Gibson, Kyle. "Death Penalty Repeal: It's Necessary to Use Capital Punishment in a Free World." Mic. 23 June 2013. Web. 29 Jan. 2015. <http://mic.com/articles/48937/death-penalty-repeal-it-s-necessary-to-use-capital-punishment-in-a-free-world>.

For decades capital punishment or the death penalty has been a very controversial subject and state legislators have been trying to eliminate it, but yet the number of Americans that believe in the death penalty is still greater than the number of Americans that are against it. The citizens of America that are for the death penalty have a number of reasons for believing in it. The death penalty serves as closure, allows deterrence to take place, and keeps murders away from society. When a murderer is executed it serves as closure for the victim’s family because they do not have to live knowing that the individual that took a family member from them is no longer alive. As soon as that murderer is killed some of the pain and suffering goes away and allows for a sense of peace. Not only does the death penalty provide closure, but it also gives deterrence a chance to become a factor.

Deterrence is preventing a person from doing a certain activity and the death penalty prevents people from committing murders because murderers are not willing to kill someone. If they do murder someone they themself could be killed through capital punishment. Criminals may still murder someone if they know they are just sentenced to prison for life because they know that they can still live, but when it comes to the death penalty many more people would not be willing to put their life as risk. When criminals are sentenced to prison for life instead of being executed it does not help out any situation because criminals still commit crimes will in jail or prison. Department of Justice’s Office of Legal Policy did a poll and 33 agencies had the presence of prison gangs and prison gangs have been behind 50% or more of all murders within state prisons. If murderers are just executed through the death penalty that individual person could no longer be a threat to anyone in any location. America as a whole would be better off if the death penalty was used because it makes the whole nation a safer place because it prevents murders and eliminates convicted murderers and that explains why more Americans favor the death penalty.

Death Penalty Repeal: It's Necessary to Use Capital Punishment in a Free World is an extremely used source because it gives the point of view of a person who favors the death penalty and lists the pros of it. The other two sources I used gave the perspective of people whom are against the death penalty by listing the cons of execution of murderers. The information in the article isn’t as reliable as the other sources I used because it has less statistics and graphs to back up the information it is referring to in the article, but it still is information that is reliable because the author Kyle Gibson has a job in government and has dedicated his free time to argue controversial issues on freedom and rights. As one reads through this article one can see that this article is a little biased because it does not happen to list any cons about the death penalty to make it only sound like a good thing which is deceiving. This article is trying to get the readers to get persuaded to favor capital punishment through the pros it uses about the death penalty.

After I finished reading this article I realized that it will fit perfectly into my research project because the pros in this article can compare and contrast to the cons in the other sources I used for my research. It gives the positives and negatives of the death penalty which creates a good argument so it was helpful in that way. This article gives me the pros so it lets me list the pros and cons separately in my project and then when a viewer reads both sides of the argument it will allow the viewer to make a decision to agree or disagree with capital punishment. Now that I have read this article I am neutral on the death penalty because it has pros and cons that make it seem like a good or bad thing.

Annotated Bibliography 4

"5 Arguments For And Against The Death Penalty - Listverse." Listverse. 1 June 2013. Web. 1 Feb. 2015. <http://listverse.com/2013/06/01/5-arguments-for-and-against-the-death-penalty/>.

Throughout history capital punishment has been a very controversial subject. Every person has their own personal view on this subject for different reasons. The death penalty has good reasons to be for it and it also has reasons to be against it. Individuals who are for the death penalty usually think that it is a good warning to criminals, provides closure for victim’s family, is not cruel, and creates the best answer for committed murderers. On the other hand, people whom are against the capital punishment contemplate that it is cruel, hypocritical, does not allow people to learn from their mistakes, and does not prevent criminals from committing crimes. Most people who are in favor of the death penalty think that it makes it so criminals will be less inclined to commit murders and other crimes because most people fear death. Another pro is that it is only fair because a committed murderer deserves to die just like his or her victim. Not only does the death penalty have pros, but it also has its cons.

One of the main cons to death penalty is that it teaches criminals nothing because it does not allow them to learn from their mistakes if they are killed. Another con is that many people believe that the death penalty does not persuade people no to commit crimes. In 2012 the US had a murder rate of 4.8 victims per 100,000 people around the country. This statistic proves the death penalty has not affected the number of murders that are occurring. America’s justice system states that it is against killing and it is wrong, but yet they still have a criminal executed for wrongdoing. The death penalty is very hypocritical. As well as being hypocritical capital punishment is cruel. There are 5 ways of legal execution in the U.S. and these ways are through lethal injection, electrocution, firing squad, hanging, and gassing. The firing squad, electrocution, and hanging methods quickly kill people; however, execution through lethal injection and poisonous gases result in long, painful deaths which many people think is inhumane. As an individual can see the death penalty has quit a few pros and cons. Depending on what a person’s views and morals are decide whether or not a person agrees or disagrees with the death penalty.

This source was very helpful because it gave the pros and cons of the death penalty. All of the articles I have used mainly had one point of view. They basically were for or against the death penalty, but article had both points of view which was different. 5 Arguments For And Against The Death Penalty is not near as reliable as the other articles I have used. This article has hardly any information and statistics to backup what it is stating in the text. It is opinionated which makes it a little biased even though it gives the pros and cons of the death penalty. After reviewing this article an individual would say that this article was trying to inform people that capital punishment has positives and negatives. Then once viewers have read this article it allows them to make the decision whether or not they believe in the death penalty.

As I read through this article I thought that it became more and more useful to me because it included some pros and cons that have not been listed in other sources I have used. An example would be that it talks about how hypocritical the death penalty is. I can use the bits and pieces of this article that have not yet been listed in other articles in my research project because it will just add more in depth detail and supporting information to make my research reliable. I think that this article has not changed my view on this topic because in the text there was nothing specific that grabbed my attention that made me side one way or other. I thought it lacked the details I needed to see to persuade me to be for or against the death penalty.

Annotated Bibliography 5

Saletan, William. "Six Reasons Why Support for the Death Penalty Is Evaporating." The Slate. 17 June 2014. Web. 2 Feb. 2015.

Recently for the first time in recent history a majority has chosen life imprisonment over capital punishment according to Washington Post/ABC News poll. In 1994 the number supporters of execution was at the highest ever recorded at 80 percent. Now the number of people in favor of the death penalty has completely changed in just 20 years. The number of people that support the death penalty has been starting to rapidly decrease. This is because of declining murder and crime rates, deterrence, different execution methods, and wrong sentencing. Surveys show that most people no longer think that execution effects murder rate and now that less people believe in this philosophy the death penalty will become less popular. In addition, people also agree that execution methods are not moral. Americans think that the death penalty poorly executes people especially through lethal injection because it is a long, painful death. The main reason people are starting to dislike the death penalty is because it often has wrongly accused innocent people. Even though we know have the technology to do DNA testing to confirm who is and is not guilty people still dislike that people have been wrongly accused in the past and still may be getting wrongly accused today. All of these reasons are why citizens would now prefer life in prison over capital punishment.

This source was pretty useful because it had reliable information that I can use for my research projection. Every single statement that was made within the article was backed up by a fact, chart, or statistic. This source had very similar cons to the death penalty as all of the other sources I have used that talk about the cons of capital punishment. This article may seem a little deceiving because it only talks about how the death penalty has decreased in popular. It does not even allow the reader to have the option of thinking that execution is a good thing. The goal of this whole article is to get one to believe that the death penalty is bad and to persuade the viewer to be against it.

Six Reasons Why Support For The Death Penalty Is Evaporating allows me to confirm that all of my other sources were correct about the cons of the death penalty. It gives me some of the same information that supports the other information I have already found. The facts it uses can go into my research project because this article uses dozens of facts and statistics that can back up the information I will use in my research project. I thought this article was quiet useful because of its examples and facts it uses. This specific article started to make me believe that the death penalty is wrong because it pushes that the death penalty is no longer popular among Americans.

Annotated Bibliography 6

Atkinson, Lee. "The Death Penalty: DNA Evidence, Testing Make Death Penalty More Credible." Orlando Sentinel. 30 Oct. 2012. Web. 4 Feb. 2015. <http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2012-10-30/opinion/os-ed-front-burner-death-penalty-pro-103012-20121029\_1\_dna-evidence-dna-test-post-conviction-dna-exonerations>.

In today’s society one of the main arguments against the death penalty is that the court systems often wrongly accuse innocent people to death sentences. Recently new technology has been discovered that may eliminate this problem. Technology has been developed that will allow scientists to use DNA testing to see who actually committed a crime. The Innocence Project used DNA testing to discover that 13 in Florida were innocent that were said to be guilty and put on death sentences. DNA testing provides significant evidence to allow the court to accuse the correct person of a crime. Because of DNA testing now it is not likely that an innocent person will be shut up in prison or executed. Murderers will now most likely be accused of homicide and not get away with a crime without punishment. Since judge’s decisions will be more accurate because of DNA testing it is not time of give up on the Death Penalty just yet. It still can provide correct punishment for the correct person because of the newly developed DNA testing.

DNA evidence, testing make death penalty more credible was very useful. It suggested that the death penalty will be supported a little more because it will be more reliable. I found an article before that talked about DNA testing, but not in depth. This article just talks about DNA testing and how it benefits the death penalty which will help form part of my argument that supports execution in my research project. Most sources have been against the death penalty, but this one is for capital punishment so it will be a big part of my argument favoring execution. This information is very reliable because DNA testing has proved that the correct person is being punished for their actions. It has true information in it. This source is not biased or objective because it does specifically agree or disagree with the death penalty. The article just implies that DNA testing will help the death penalty’s reliability.

This article was very helpful to me because it had different information in it than all of my articles. It was something different that can help form arguments in my research project. This source has great details explaining how DNA testing can be used to benefit the death penalty. I can use these details in my argument to contrast all of the details I have on the cons of the death penalty. This article did not change what I think about the death penalty. I still think that it is wrong, but it did make me think that it is not as wrong because less innocent people will be killed because of DNA testing.

Annotated Bibliography 7

Johnson, Kevin. "Shifts Detected in Support for Death Penalty." USATODAY.COM. 25 Apr. 2012. Web. 4 Feb. 2015. <http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/story/2012-04-24/abolish-death-penalty-movement/54515754/1>.

The latest Gallup Poll discovered that now only 61 percent of people in the United States support the death penalty which is the lowest level in almost four decades. Slowly Americans have been becoming against capital punishment over the past dozen years. Actions performed by the citizens of the U.S. clearly show that people want the death penalty abolished. Some states have purposed bills to repeal the death penalty and change punishments from death sentences to life in prison. Government officials also believe that the death penalty is wasting money because criminals in prison spend years on death row going through appeal after appeal waiting to be executed. In the past 34 years California executed 13 people which cost $184 million a year to maintain. As well as being expensive execution also does not affect the homicide rate. There is no reliable evidence to prove it affects homicide and crime rates. The last main reason causing people to be against capital punishment is that judges often can be wrong or choose to be wrong. Lawmakers suspect that judges sometimes accuse innocent people of murder while criminals who are actually guilty have been accused innocent. The death penalty as of late has been decreasing in popularity and if the same trends continue execution will eventually be no longer expectable.

This article was helpful because it had good information that was relevant. It had solid information backed up by graphs and statistics. It provided specific examples of why the death penalty has decreased in popularity unlike other sources I have used. All of the sources in my project have had the same type of information embedded in them, but did not use great examples like this article called Shifts detected in support for death penalty. The information within this article is reliable because it is on a USA Today’s official website and has examples to back up what is stated in the text. It was somewhat biased because it is favoring all people who are against execution. This source was just simply trying to inform Americans and other viewers that people are starting to be against the death penalty in hopes that the viewer will join in that philosophy.

I personally think that this source was a very helpful tool. It gave me supporting examples that I can use to back up the information located in the other sources I have used. This article has given basically the final supporting examples I need to use for the part of my project that is arguing against the death penalty. Now I believe the section of my project that is against capital punishment is complete because of this article. *Shifts detected in support for death penalty* was the final proof that I needed to see to finally make me believe that the death penalty should be abolished. I think it wastes money and is not fair that so many innocent people have been wrongly accused because of execution.

Annotated Bibliography 8

"Arguments in Favour of Capital Punishment." BBC News. BBC. Web. 4 Feb. 2015. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/capitalpunishment/for\_1.shtml>.

Over the past several years one of the major debates has been capital punishment. People have different opinions on this debate depending on how someone views it. People that favor execution argue that it is a deterrent, leads to rehabilitation, prevents further crimes, provides closure, and helps police. The main argue that favors the death penalty is that it provides retribution. The death penalty makes all guilty criminals receive proper punishment. For example, murderers deserve to be killed through the death penalty because that is what their victim suffered. On the other hand, there are arguments against execution. Some people believe that criminals have to suffer more by waiting in prison on death row than just simply spending a lifetime in prison. Deterrence is also another factor people have an issue with when it comes to the death penalty. There are no studies that prove it affects crime rates which is a major problem because otherwise people think that murderers are being executed for no reason if it does not affect anything. People have had large disagreements on this subject and until Americans have the same views on the death penalty these agreements will continue to occur.

*Arguments in favour of capital punishment* was somewhat useful. This article had good information, but it all of the same information as the other articles I have used. It did not teach me anything new that I did not already know even know it had good information in it. This information located in the article is very reliable and trustworthy because all of the other articles I have read over say the same exact statements. This source is trying to get the point across that the viewer that the death penalty has been a major issue as of late. It states the pros and cons of the death penalty and is informing people of what those pros and cons are.

This source that I used was little use to me because it had all of the same information in it as my other articles I used. All of the articles I found used the same information in just different ways. I can use this article as support to make sure all of the information in the other articles I have used in my research project contains correct information. It is acting as a last supporting article. As I look back at this article it did not change my view on the death penalty. I have came to the conclusion that in my opinion the death penalty is wrong because it has killed innocent people and costs so much money. It also is just not right in my opinion because no one deserves to die because of a mistake someone made.