

## **Why the Death Penalty is Good**

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## WHY THE DEATH PENALTY IS GOOD

### **What is the Death Penalty?**

The death penalty, also known as capital punishment, is the execution of a defendant found guilty of a serious crime by a court of law. It is the most severe punishment given to criminals when they violate a major criminal offense like rape or murder (Hood, 2017).

Capital punishment is not a new or recent judgment, it has been a part of human history for thousands of years. Foreign governments such as the Greeks, English, and Chinese use this punishment to curb undesirable human behavior. Religious books have passages that condone capital punishment like, the Muslims Quran, “... If anyone kills a person—unless it is for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he killed all people. And if anyone saves a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all people (Quran 5:32)” and the Christian Bible, “Anyone who strikes a man so that he dies shall be put to death (Exodus 21:12)” both books articulate the consequence of death for this inappropriate behavior. The rich and the poor alike have been sentenced to death like Iraq’s former president Saddam Hussein who died by hanging in 2006 or Scotland’s freedom fighter William Wallace who was hanged, disemboweled, beheaded, and quartered in 1205. Probably one of the most famous people given a capital punishment was in 33 AD, when Jesus Christ was found guilty of treason and sentenced to death through crucifixion by the Romans.

The death penalty is and will always be a contested form of punishment with some believing the punishment is inhumane or man has no right to pass judgement; while others consider it is a just reward for committing these types of crimes. This paper will show that the death penalty is a punishment that is not only appropriate to crime prevention but is also needed as a way for the victim’s families to have closure.

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### **Why the Death Penalty is a Positive Societal Punishment.**

In 2016, a Texas peace officer was shot and killed in an unprovoked ambush style shooting by a 36-year-old man while writing a ticket inside his police cruiser. In 2013, three girls were found in a residence in Ohio abducted, repeatedly raped, and kept captive as sex slaves for over ten years. In 2001, middle eastern men hijacked two 737 passenger jets and flew them into the twin towers in New York City killing themselves and 2,977 additional human beings. These crimes are of an extreme nature and are great examples of why having a punishment, like the death penalty, is warranted. Crimes have got to have serious consequences to deter the act, if not then how do you hold criminals accountable for these and other horrific actions?

“I think the reason to support the death penalty is because it saves other people’s lives” (Bush,1999). The death penalty prevents crime by saving lives by stopping criminals from getting back out in society and repeating the acts again. By having the death penalty on the books, it further illustrates to society the types of intolerable criminal behavior that criminals will forfeit with their lives. “[S]imple justice demands that Daniel Lewis Lee and murderers like him face the ultimate punishment, which truly fits the crime. Further, the death penalty in this case warns criminals to stop short of murder, lest they face execution” (Rutledge, 2019).

Another reason to have the death penalty is for the retribution of the families. The crimes committed by capital offenders not only impact the victim but also influence the victims’ families. They carry a lifetime burden of knowing their loved ones went through unimaginable carnage and torture at the hands of the offender. This is a personal event between the families of the victims and the perpetrator, and no one should be allowed to stand in their way for closure. Therefore, by sentencing these criminals to death those families get to have that personal closure. “.... People use closure, and I think it means different things to different people. What it would

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mean for me is that my fight for justice for my son would be complete when his sentence, which was by a Contra Costa County jury and by a Contra Costa County judge, would be carried out as it should be, which really basically means we have a law on the books, enforce it — give people their appellate rights — but enforce the law (Chakrabarti, 2019).”

Society should embrace the punishment of the death penalty for all major crimes like these like forceable rape, first degree murder, or anything with children that is of a sexual nature. If we do not have punishments that fit these crimes, crimes will spiral out of control because we have reduced the pain factor like the fear of their own mortality. “Though we understand some Arkansans have principled objections to the death penalty, we believe the ultimate punishment is warranted for the most heinous murderers. Capital punishment can help bring closure for victims’ families, deter other would-be murderers, and express the moral outrage of our society for the most atrocious crimes” (Rutledge, 2019).

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## WHY THE DEATH PENALTY IS GOOD

<https://www.wbur.org/onpoint/2019/03/20/death-penalty-california-murder-victims-families>

Does the Death Penalty Offer Closure or Solace to Victims' Families? - Death Penalty -

ProCon.org. (n.d.). Death Penalty. <https://deathpenalty.procon.org/questions/does-the-death-penalty-offer-closure-or-solace-to-victims-families/>