

Death Penalty

Do you think the death penalty is justice or unjust? Well if your thinking that the death penalty is unjust to let me paint you a picture that might just change your mind. Imagine that that someone very important to you, significant other, child, a parent was just brutally murdered. You go through this long whole investigation to figure out who murdered them and when the detectives find and catch the guy that murdered your loved one and nor the people that were in your loved one's life are now without their mother, father, son, daughter, husband, wife, and friend. And all you want is peace, justice, and closure. Now everyone's definition of justice may be different but way back when if you killed someone you would be killed as well. But since we've gotten to the modern days we've gone away from that you just get life in prison. Now let's just say that for this scenario you were in favor of the death penalty and that's what you were as just for your loved one being murdered brutally might I add you. But the state that your in or the court that you were in isn't in favor of the death penalty. They are just giving life in prison without the possibility of parole. And now your thinking to yourself why does this person who just murdered your loved one get to live when your loved one is dead. Well, it's not up to you what happens to the person the murders the courts will do what they see fit and just. And I'm most cases they do t get the death penalty because they flame that they are insane or have schizophrenia.

If we give criminals, rapists and other terrible criminals the death penalty will it really be for the grieving loved ones or is it too much? In the US the death penalty has only been sentenced to 78 different people but only 12 of them have received there full death penalty sentencing. "Contrary to what many believe, the federal death penalty is frequently employed in cases where a conviction or death sentence would have also been available in state courts. There are no prisoners on the federal row for treason or air piracy, for example, and only one prisoner's case was related to terrorism. Individuals under federal sentences of death include defendants who were already serving long state prison sentences for the same homicide, those who were prosecuted in federal court because the vehicle used in a carjacking was once shipped through interstate commerce, and others whose case involved the death of an intimate partner. A number of federal death sentences were prosecuted in states that have abolished the death penalty." (Federal Death Penalty). In every case that the death penalty is given, it is given to terrorists, serial rapists, serial killers, and other severe criminals. Have you ever thought about the death penalty and thought that it was given to many people will you can think again. "Since the reinstatement of the federal death penalty in 1988, 78 defendants have been sentenced to death, of whom 3 have been executed and 12 have been removed from death row. Three other defendants have had a jury recommend a

death sentence, but a death sentence was not ultimately imposed. Two of those three defendants have now received lesser sentences. In the third case (John Wayne Johnson), the authorization to seek death was withdrawn.” (Federal Death Penalty). Even though people think that the federal government gives the death penalty they don't give it to people unless they deserve it and they don't take that punishment lightly they take it very seriously. And on their occasions when they have given the death penalty they withdraw the death penalty warrant.

How many different types of execution methods. There are five different ways to be executed. But only two of the methods are still used in the U.S. There is Lethal injection, electrocution, gas chamber, firing squad, and hanging. In the U.S. you can only be charged with lethal injection and electrocution. “Seeking a more humane method of execution than hanging, New York built the first electric chair in 1888 and executed William Kemmler in 1890. Soon, other states adopted this execution method. Today, electrocution is not used as the sole method of execution in any state. Electrocution was the sole method in Nebraska until the State Supreme Court ruled the method unconstitutional in February 2008. For execution by the electric chair, the person is usually shaved and strapped to a chair with belts that cross his chest, groin, legs, and arms” (Federal Death Penalty). The electric chair isn't the ideal way to do you get no numbing drugs so you feel everything the whole time. But when a criminal is given a death sentence they are given the option on whether or not to have the electric chair or lethal injection and there's no question as to why that's what they choose. “The first state to adopt lethal injection as a means of execution, though it would be five more years until Charles Brooks would become the first person executed by lethal injection in Texas on December 2, 1982. Today, all of the 32 states that have the death penalty use this method. When this method is used, the condemned person is usually bound to a gurney and a member of the execution team positions several heart monitors on this skin. Two needles (one is a back-up) are then inserted into usable veins, usually in the inmate's arms. Long tubes connect the needle through a hole in a cement block wall to several intravenous drips. The first is a harmless saline solution that is started immediately. Then, at the warden's signal, a curtain is raised exposing the inmate to the witnesses in an adjoining room. Then, the inmate is injected with sodium thiopental - an anesthetic, which puts the inmate to sleep. Next flow pavulon or pancuronium bromide, which paralyzes the entire muscle system and stops the inmate's breathing. Finally, the flow of potassium chloride stops the heart. Death results from anesthetic overdose and respiratory and cardiac arrest while the condemned person is unconscious. Medical ethics preclude doctors from participating in executions. However, a doctor will certify the inmate is dead.” (Federal Death Penalty). Lethal injection is the less painless way to die out of the two options that are now given to criminals now. And there's no other

good explanation as to why but the other forms of execution are not ethical or human to kill them by hanging. So they have narrowed the options to the only options left.

For the criminals that have received a death penalty sentence, they are all given a lethal injection. But do you know the process of what happens with the process of lethal injection? "Lethal injection uses a combination, or "cocktail," of three chemicals, which are intended to put to sleep, paralyze, and then kill the inmate being executed. In recent years, however, increased attention has been paid to problems with the method." (Jon Raedle). They are given a numbing and sleep injection and then they are given the lethal injection. Contrary to what people think the patient feels no pain through the procedure. Others argue that the anesthesia doesn't work on all clients and they are in pain for the last moments of their life. "The idea that a murderer is entitled to a painless death, which relatively few of us are going to have, I don't think is sustainable," Kent Scheidegger, legal director of the Criminal Justice Legal Foundation in California, told the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Indeed, some supporters take a "retributionist" view of punishment, arguing that because of the horrible crimes those who are executed have committed, it is not necessarily right to concentrate on alleviating their pain." (Jon Raedel). Although they are killers rapists and terrorists does that mean that should die in pain? Most people say that that is going a little too far but it all depends on the person that you ask and it depends on what crime they committed.

Is the death penalty unconstitutional? It taking away from their 8th amendment right? "Prison officials may not be qualified to administer the mixture of chemicals, they contend, not being trained, for example, to find prisoners' veins in order to properly insert IV lines. IV drug use, which many prisoners have a history of, can make veins hard to find, they note, as can cold and anxiety."(Jon Raedel). Since the ones administering the drug aren't trained in to do the injection process it shouldn't be used on criminals at all, so they should be sentenced to life in prison instead. "A large dose of anesthetic alone would be enough to kill and would be less likely to cause pain, critics argue. But opponents note that administering it would take much longer than using the three-drug combination. States show more concern with shortening the length of time of the execution than with avoiding pain, they charge." (Jon Raedel) Even just giving the anesthesia alone could kill a person if it isn't given the person properly and they are given too much could alone kill a person. Although all of those arguments are very true and valid these aren't just any people these are serial killers, serial rapists, and terrorists. These are people that committed horrible terrible crimes and they didn't have a concern for the people that they committed the crimes on, so is them dying in pain

really a bad thing. "Lethal injection argue that it is a great improvement over older methods of execution, such as hanging or the electric chair when it is done correctly, lethal injection offers a nearly painless form of execution, they say. That should be considered progress, they argue. They express doubt that inmates suffer as much as they claim to." (Jon Raedel). Most inmates when they were asked what they would prefer to have if they were given the death penalty they said that they would rather have lethal injection rather than any other forms of execution.

For all the people that are for the death penalty are for getting revenge on people. They have already killed so many people, raped people or they are terrorist do we really need any more negative energy in the world. Although they may deserve the death penalty is it really all that ethical. There are even states that have very strict and specific laws about killing and what will happen to them for example "New York: An individual committing a felony, such as robbery, burglary, kidnapping, arson, rape or sexual abuse that, either alone or with another participant, causes the death of a person other than the accomplice, may be prosecuted under New York's felony-murder rule for second-degree murder and sentenced to 15 years to life in prison and fined up to \$100,000." (Felony-Murder Laws: Is the felony-murder rule fair?). Now this one may not be the death penalty they are already serving 15 years in prison how do you expect them to pay \$100,000. And what happens if they can't pay it, its never stated what will happen. Do they live in prison forever or worse do they get the death penalty. How do they expect them to pay the money if they don't let them be people in society? On the other side letting the family choose what should happen to the victim as well as the jury can help bring the family more closure and not be mad about what happened.

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