

Persuasive Essay Outline for College Students

1) Hook: (This essay did not have a hook. However, if I were to create one this is how it might look: No one would ever want to hear these words, "We the jury, find the defendant guilty." Imagine, though, if you also heard that you were sentenced to die.)

2) TELL ME WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME -Main Argument

Capital punishment should be stopped.

- i) 1st supporting argument (2nd strongest reason): because it is morally wrong,
- ii) 2nd supporting argument (least strongest reason): expensive,
- iii) 3rd supporting argument (strongest reason): and such a slow process.

3) TELL ME - 1st supporting argument (2nd strongest reason): because it is morally wrong

- i) #1 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): we are following the criminals' example by doing something equally as bad ourselves
- ii) #2 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): taking one life for another life
- iii) #3 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): a chance that a mistake will be made

4) 2nd supporting argument (least strongest reason): expensive

- i) #1 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): States with the death penalty use taxes to pay these expenses.
- ii) #2 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): Over the past 13 years, Florida has spent \$57 million to carry out 18 executions.
- iii) #3 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): If you divide this dollar amount by the number of executions, you come up with a cost of \$3.2 million for each execution.

5) 3rd supporting argument (strongest reason): such a slow process

- i) #1 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): 97% of all death-row prisoners are not executed on time.

ii) #2 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): If the U.S. legal system executed one inmate every day, it would still take 30 years to empty all of the cells on death row. iii) #3 proof (facts, examples, quotes, stories): (This essay did not have a 3rd form of proof. However, if I were to create one this is how it might look.)

6) **Opposing Viewpoint:** (This essay did not have an opposing viewpoint. However, if I were to create one this is how it might look: Convicts on death row deserve to die because of the horrendous crimes that they have committed.

i) **Challenge:** (This essay did not have a challenge. However, if I were to create one this is how it might look: a convict's crime may be horrendous, but it is our responsibility to try and rehabilitate them instead of killing them.)

7) **TELL ME WHAT YOU JUST TOLD ME - Main Argument:**

Capital punishment should be dropped from our legal system.

- i) 1st supporting argument (2nd strongest reason): morally wrong
- ii) 2nd supporting argument (least strongest reason): expensive
- iii) 3rd supporting argument (strongest reason): slow process