

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