

Find 2-3 criminal justice-related topics and provide the relevant opposing views (pro and con) of the articles.

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Capital Punishment

Pro

(1) Capital punishment is literally a life-and-death issue. (2) Death penalty, it is the execution of people who have been found guilty of offenses considered to be capital crimes. (3) Supporters of capital punishment believe that some crimes, especially murder, are so serious and so destructive to society that the perpetrators deserve the most severe punishment. (4) Other important issues regarding capital punishment include the wrongful execution of innocent people and lack of uniformity in applying the death penalty. (5) The amendment states that no person "shall be deprived of life ... without due process of law." This means that before an execution, certain legal procedures—such as formal arrest, charges, and a trial—must be followed. (6) (Revision) Execution was the automatic penalty for anyone convicted of murder or several other serious crimes.

Con

(1) Opponents of capital punishment argue that there are no circumstances under which taking a human life is justified. (2) They think that society's interests are better served by placing criminals in jail, where they can do no further harm.

Child Abuse

PRO: Hundreds of thousands of children in the U.S. are estimated to be victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse. (2) Most people would agree that sexually assaulting or causing serious physical harm to a child qualifies as abuse.

CON: Many cases go unreported. (2) Many of the reported cases result in little or no change in the child's situation.

Response 2

DRUG LEGALIZATION

CON:

According to McDonough, 2005, liberalizing drug policies would not be beneficial to society. Some claims supporting the legalizing of illicit drugs state that drug charges are a main cause of prison overcrowding and that drug use is simply a personal habit that does not affect others. This article explains the misconception in regard to prison populations and provides statistical supporting evidence from several sources, including the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics. These statistics show that a miniscule percentage of those incarcerated were charged with only a drug charge, and furthermore, that most persons who committed other crimes were under the influence of drugs.

PRO:

In the article, *Drug Policies should be Liberalized*, the detrimental effects of strict drug policy enforcement is discussed. The war on drugs can never be won and has cost the government billions of dollars. In addition, these policies separate families and incarcerate people who otherwise live productive meaningful lives. A distinction among drug use, drug abuse, and drug addiction should be made. Furthermore those that do abuse or addicted to drugs should be treated medically not placed in the criminal justice system (*Drug Legalization*, 2005).

IDENTITY THEFT

CON:

Thomas Lenard Claims that identity theft is a declining problem. He supports this theory because he believes it is important for companies to be able to access personal information as well as for individuals to allow their information to be accessed easily. He believes that notification rules slow the business growth and productivity. This is important because approvals are facilitated quickly and competition among credit companies is increased through this ease of access.

PRO:

The director for corporate security at Bank of America argues that identity theft is a persistent and mounting problem. He further avers that identity theft not only harms the victim, but institutions as well. The victim suffers because his or her credit is marred. The institution suffers because they must reimburse the victim for any costs uncured from the identity theft. Identity theft occurs when a person or persons fraudulently uses another person's personal information to open accounts or drain existing accounts. This problem continues to plague many people.

References

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