

THE POLICY PAPER

GOVT 2306

**STATE & LOCAL
GOVERNMENT**

MR. THOMAS ENRIQUEZ

**Please follow directions
carefully and ask for
help if you need it.**

DIRECTIONS FOR THE POLICY PAPER

YOUR PAPER WILL BE CAREFULLY GRADED. FOLLOW DIRECTIONS COMPLETELY AND TALK TO ME IF YOU ARE UNSURE OR HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS ASSIGNMENT.

1. A POLICY PAPER is a problem-solution paper that clearly identifies a political problem and describes your specific and persuasive solution to it.
2. The FORMAT for your paper should be : (1) clearly state a specific political problem, (2) describe and evaluate alternative solution(s), (3) and explain your specific solution.
3. CONTENT of your paper should be : a title page, an outline page, the body of your paper, and a references page in APA style.
4. You should have at least 3 correctly done APA FOOTNOTES in the body of your paper.
5. Your paper should be typed (.10 or .12 font New Times Roman) in double-space with NOT LESS than 3, and NOT MORE than 5, full pages in standard form.
6. ACCEPTABLE SOURCES are government documents and reports, academic journals, technical reports, reliable books, newspapers, magazines, and EPCC or UTEP internet (.edu, .gov, .mil, .org). You should have a MINIMUM of 5 different sources.
7. UNACCEPTABLE SOURCES are textbooks, questionable internet sites, any visual media, personal interviews, general encyclopedias (Wikipedia), partisan propaganda, and sensational books, newspapers, and magazines. Please check with me if you are not sure about your sources.
8. Use FIRST PERSON tense expression throughout your paper.
9. Conscious and unconscious PLAGIARISM will be graded F.
10. PROOFREAD for all spelling, grammar, and capitalization mistakes.
11. Show good MECHANICS, neatness, and clear presentation.
12. A ROUGH DRAFT and 3 dated source article pages MUST be turned in with your paper.
13. LATE PAPERS WILL BE PENALIZED -50 POINTS PER CLASS DAY OVERDUE.
14. YOUR PAPER IS DUE IN MY OFFICE NO LATER THAN 10:00 PM :

MARCH 3+4

POLICY PAPER EVALUATION

POINTS WERE DEDUCTED FOR THE CIRCLED ITEMS BELOW

TOTAL POINTS EARNED : _____ / 200 POINTS

1. Unacceptable or unapproved policy topic of your paper for this class.
2. Title page, outline, unacceptable, unclear, or too broad.
3. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete sources for your paper.
4. No clear, specific description of the political problem you are writing about.
5. Inadequate, incomplete, alternative solutions discussed.
6. Inadequate, incomplete, solution to solve the political problem.
7. Sections in your paper were unclear, ambiguous, or confusing.
8. Overall comments are too general, vague, or not specific.
9. Most, or all, of your paper was not written in the first person tense.
10. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete APA footnotes in your paper.
11. Little evidence of your own original interpretation or explanation.
12. Unacceptable, inadequate, or incomplete format for your paper.
13. Little or no relation to politics and government in your comments.
14. Too descriptive, unpersuasive, unconvincing, or opinionated comments.
15. Poor mechanics or poor appearance of your paper overall.
16. Inadequate or excessive length of your paper.
17. Inadequate, incomplete, or unacceptable references page.
18. Serious capitalization, spelling, or grammatical mistakes.
19. No rough draft or dated source article pages turned in with your paper.
20. You did not follow directions, understand, or ask for help for this paper.

OTHER : _____

STATE & LOCAL TOPICS

1. **Texas should abolish its photo ID voter law.**
2. **The teen pregnancy rate is increasing in El Paso.**
3. **College tuition should be controlled by the state legislature.**
4. **Apathy is El Paso's favorite political participation.**
5. **El Paso is a poor city with uneducated people.**
6. **The death penalty strengthens law and order in Texas.**
7. **El Paso is a dirty and ugly city.**
8. **Texas should provide free day care for single parents.**
9. **El Paso needs a new multi-purpose arena.**
10. **Women in Texas are not pursuing science and math careers.**
11. **The Hispanic high school drop out rate in Texas is too high.**
12. **The ASARCO property should become part of UTEP.**
13. **El Paso should try to get a professional soccer team.**
14. **El Paso is a boring city with little entertainment for young people.**
15. **Texas should treat illegal immigrants like Arizona.**
16. **Ciudad Juarez is a liability to El Paso.**
17. **El Paso should make stronger efforts to attract new businesses.**
18. **The nursing shortage in Texas is a growing problem.**
19. **Texas should legalize casino gambling.**
20. **Abortion-on-demand should be legalized in Texas.**



Rio Grande Library

Spring 2015

www.epcc.edu/library

Welcome

The Rio Grande Library staff welcomes you to your campus library.

The library is located in the Oregon Center Room E100. We are open seven days a week when classes are in session and always have a librarian on duty to assist you.

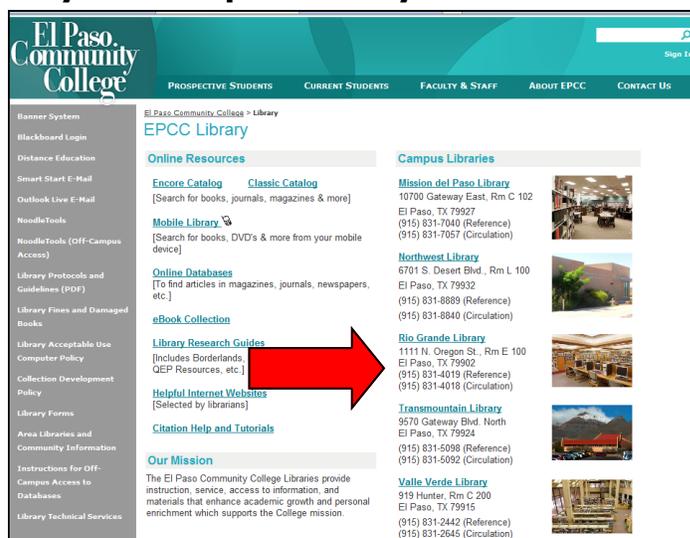
The Rio Grande Library provides access to books, eBooks, journals, magazines, newspapers, and the Internet. We also provide over 100 computers with Internet and Microsoft Office for your use.

In addition, wireless Internet is available throughout the campus.

Please let us know if you need any assistance.

Library Hours

(You can call to verify hours before visiting the library.)



Rio Grande Phone: 831-4019/4018
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:30pm
 Friday 7:30am-2:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
 Sunday 1:00pm-5:00pm

Computer area closes 30 minutes prior to closing.

Northwest Phone: 831-8889/8840
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:00pm
 Friday 7:30am-4:00pm
 Saturday 10:00am-4:00pm
 Sunday Closed

Mission del Paso Phone: 831-7040/7057
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-8:00pm
 Friday 7:30am-4:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm
 Sunday Closed

Transmountain Phone: 831-5098/5092
 Monday-Thursday 7:30am-10:00pm
 Friday 7:30am-5:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm
 Sunday 12:00pm-4:00pm

Valle Verde

Phone: 831-2442/2645

Monday-Thursday 7:00am-10:00pm Friday 7:00am-4:00pm
 Saturday 9:00am-4:00pm Sunday 12:00pm-4:00pm

Reference Services

Reference Librarians are available for consultation on reference and research questions and to assist patrons in using the computer catalog, the online databases, the reference collection or any other library resource.

ASK FOR ASSISTANCE AT THE REFERENCE OR CIRCULATION DESKS.

Online Articles

The library provides access to thousands of journal, magazine, and newspaper articles through the **Online Databases**. Access is available 24/7 for current EPCC students, staff, and faculty. **To access off-campus**, go to the library webpage and click on **"Online Databases."** Choose a database and click on "off-campus access." **Enter your name and EPCC ID number to gain access.**

Login required for off-campus access.

For example, type "Jane Smith"

Your Name:

For example, type "600123456"

EPCC ID Number:

Submit Start Over

eBooks

Hundreds of electronic books are available 24/7 through the library system. To access these eBooks, go to the library webpage and click on **"eBook Collection."** Click on the off-campus option if you are at home. Search for your eBook and click on "eBook Full Text" to view.

Books

Search for Books and Audio Visual materials using the **Encore Catalog**. Enter the title, author name, or keywords in the search box. The catalog displays items held at all 5 EPCC campus libraries.

If you would like to have an item sent from another campus to your campus, please fill out a request and take it to the Circulation Desk. This service may take up to a week.

Computers

Computers with Internet access are available to users with a valid EPCC I.D. Stop at the Circulation Desk, show them your I.D. and you will be assigned to a computer. Community users may use computers with a valid picture I.D. Users may pay for printing with either cash or vendacard.

Library Card

Validated El Paso County Community College District identification cards will be used as library cards. When you wish to check out library materials, present your validated I.D. card along with your material at the Circulation Desk. Your I.D. card may be used at all El Paso Community College Libraries. **Please check materials for damage prior to check-out.**



Community User Library cards will be issued to current El Paso County residents who are not EPCC students, faculty or staff. Applications are available at each library Circulation Desk and online. The card may be renewed every year. General circulation regulations will apply to Community User library card holders. However, only two items can be checked out at a time. (Community Users are not eligible for Resource Sharing (Interlibrary Loan)). Video check out at Rio Grande is restricted to established borrowers.

Book/AV Checkout

- Books check out for 3 weeks.
- Audio Visual Materials check out for 1 week.
- Reference Sources and periodicals are for use in the library only.

Library fines for each overdue item is 25 cents per day. If materials are not returned, a bill for replacement plus a \$10.00 processing fee will be mailed to the borrower. The registrar will place a hold on the student's transcripts and the student will not be allowed to register for the following semester until accounts are paid.

Return of Materials

Return materials to the Circulation Desk during the hours that the library is open. When the library is closed, return all materials in the book drop outside the library entrance. **Items may be returned to any of the EPCC Libraries.**

Reserve Materials

Instructors may place items on Reserve. These items are available at the Circulation Desk and are for use in the library only.

Photocopies

Photocopiers are available. Copiers accept coin, cash, and vendacards.

Rio Grande Library
Reference Desk
(915) 831-4019



Library Website: www.epcc.edu/library

EPCC Government LibGuide:
www.epcc.edu/library — Library Research Guides-
Government — Government 2306: State and Local
(Mr. Enriquez)

Govt 2306: State & Local

Library Resources

When you are given a research assignment, the first question you may ask is **How do I get Started?** This handout will provide you with the information you need to get started and to use the library to find the information you need.

Getting Started

1. Choose a policy topic approved by Mr. Enriquez. *Your instructor has provided you with a listing of policy topics.*
2. Learn more about your topic by finding “Background Information” in reputable websites, newspapers, and books.
 - Background information provides you with a brief overview of your topic so that you will have a basic understanding prior to looking for books, articles, etc...
3. Now that you know some information about your topic, write the topic on a sheet of paper.
4. Break the topic down into keywords. Think of as many words as you can to describe your topic and what you need to know about it.
 - Example: Texting should be banned while driving in Texas
 - Keywords: Texting; text messages, cellular phone, cellular device, cell phone; driving; distracted driving; motor vehicle; car; accident; banned ; law; legislation; Bill; Texas
5. Find out what kinds of sources you can use:
 - Government documents, academic journals, reliable books, newspapers, magazines, and EPCC/UTEP Internet (.edu, .gov, .org, .mil)
 - Minimum of 5 different sources for your report.
 - Unacceptable sources include sensational books, newspapers, magazines, general encyclopedias, the Bible, propaganda materials, visual media, direct interviews, and questionable internet sites.

If you are unsure, ask Mr. Enriquez.



Texas Capitol
senate.state.tx.us

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KS Spring 2015

FINDING ARTICLES

When you need to search for articles you will use the library's online databases.

An online database contains articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers that you can find using keywords.

To get started:

1. Go to the library webpage: www.epcc.edu/library.
2. Click on the "Online Databases."
3. You will retrieve listings of databases that are grouped by subject.
4. Choose the subject closest to your topic: Controversial Issues; Newspaper/Current Events; General Interest (good for any topic);
5. Click on one of the database names. If at home, click on "off-

CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

Opposing Viewpoints in Context – Great to use for controversial issues. Provides essays that show both sides of the issue. Also contains magazine, journal, and newspaper articles as well as websites and statistics.

Two easy ways to search:

1. Click on the "Browse Issues" tab to view a listing of categories.

Topic: *What government can do to decrease teen pregnancies in El Paso*

Select **Teenage Pregnancy** from the list of topics provided

2. Search by keyword or subject of your choice in box at the top.

Topic: *State restrictions on abortion should be repealed to allow pro-choice.*

Keywords: Abortion; pro-choice; Texas.

S.I.R.S. Issues Researcher – Provides magazines, newspapers, and reference materials

Two easy ways to search

1. Database opens to a listing leading issues--- Can select a topic from the list.
2. Use the subject or keyword search box to enter your search terms.

NEWSPAPER/CURRENT EVENTS

El Paso Times – Provides access to the full-text of the El Paso Times from 1999-Present.

Topic: *El Paso is a boring city with little entertainment for young people.*

- Click on ***El Paso Times***.
- Enter keywords: **El Paso and boring; El Paso and revitalization**

Lexis Nexis Academic—Provides access to over 10,000 news, business, and legal sources.

Topic: *Texas should legalize casino gambling.*

- Click on Lexis Nexis Academic
- Enter search terms in the red search box: **Texas and Casinos**

Newspaper Source—Access to more than 389 newspapers including 15 from Texas.

Topic: *Gun Control in Texas*

- Click on Newspaper Source (off campus access if at home)
- Enter the keywords in the search box: **Gun Control and Texas**



ADDITIONAL ONLINE DATABASE TIPS

- Select the database you would like to use by clicking on the title.
- If you are off-campus, click on "Off-campus access." (You will need to enter your last name and EPCC ID)
- For most databases, you will look for a search box:
- Enter keywords
- Checkmark Full-Text
- Click Search
- Click on the title of the article
- Find the pdf or html link to read the full-text



GENERAL INTEREST ARTICLES

Academic Search Complete: Provides journals, magazines, and newspapers from 1887-Present

Topic: College tuition should be controlled by the state legislature

- Enter your keywords: tuition and Texas; Then try tuition and Texas Legislature (checkmark Full-Text)
 - Click on an article you would like to read.
 - Print, E-mail, or Save the articles you like.

BOOKS

When you need to search for **books and videos**, you will use the **Classic Catalog**.

1. Go to the **library webpage:** www.epcc.edu/library
2. Click on “**Classic Catalog**.”
3. Search for books by Title, Author, Keyword, or Subject.
4. Check the location of the book (campus where it is located).
5. Write down the call number of the book so you can look for the book on the shelf.

Title: Enter the title of the book you want to find.

- ***Leaving Children Behind: How Texas-Style Accountability Fails Latino Youth***

Author: Enter the name of the author (last name, first name)

- **Shapleigh, Eliot**

Keywords: Enter the keywords that describe your topic. Use the word “AND” in between words.

- **Death Penalty and Texas**

Subject: Enter the main idea of your topic.

- **Teenage Pregnancy**

EBOOKS

Main Library Page—eBook Collection –Select one of the eBook collections (off-campus if at home) - Enter keywords and search. Click on the title and then look at the full text book.

CITATION HELP

Diana Hacker Research and Documentation Online:

<http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/resdoc5e/>

EPCC Library Homepage Citation Help and Tutorials:

www.epcc.edu/library—Click on Citation Help and Tutorials

Check if EPCC owns a Particular Journal

You may find that a database only provides a citation but not the full-text article. To find out if we own the full-text article on another database or in print, try the following:

In Print

- Go to the library homepage
- Click on "Classic Catalog"
- Right side of page, click on "Magazines/Journals/Newspapers"
- Enter the journal title needed
- If owned, will show you at which campus and the years owned

In Electronic Format

- Go to the library homepage
- Click on "Online Databases"
- Click on "alphabetical list of databases"
- Click on Letter "A"
- Click on "A to Z index" (off-campus available also)
- Enter title of journal in search box
- If owned, will give you name of database. Click on it.

ADDITIONAL LIBRARY CATALOG TIPS

- Check the location of the book (campus where it is located)
- You can request that another campus send the book to your campus (can take from a few days to a week)
- Write down the call number of the book so you can look for the book on the shelf.



Evaluating a Website

The Internet has a lot of great resources. It is important, however, to evaluate the website to make sure it has reliable information before using it in your paper.

Author: Author qualifications and affiliation. Look at “about us” or “who we are.”

Date: How old is the information? Updated recently?

Bias: Is the information biased? Selling you something? Fact or opinion?

Domain: Only websites that are **.edu**, **.gov**, and **.org** are accepted for this paper.

CAUTION

Wikipedia is not an acceptable source due to the fact that the information is constantly changing and the authors are not identified.

Remember: “anonymous” sources are not allowed.

FINDING WEBSITES

To get started:

1. Go to:
www.google.com
2. Enter keywords and search.
3. Click on the little gear on the right hand side. Click on Advanced Search.
4. Scroll down and find “site or domain.”
5. In that box, you can enter: **.gov**, **.edu**, **.mil**, or **.org** to limit your search to these types of websites.
6. Google is good for statistics like teen pregnancy rate, high school drop out rate, etc...

WEBSITES (EL PASO)

City of El Paso Website: www.elpasotexas.gov (view the tabs for business, visitors, etc...)

El Paso County Website: www.epcounty.com

El Paso Inc.: www.elpasoinc.com

Weekly newspaper news, lifestyle, border business and personal finance.

Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.elpaso.org/>

Borderlands

EPCC student articles on various El Paso and regional historic and cultural topics.
www.epcc.edu/library - Click on Library Research Guides— Click on Borderlands.

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES (TEXAS)

Official Website for the State of Texas: www.Texas.gov

Handbook of Texas: <http://www.tshaonline.org/>

Texas Almanac: <http://www.texasalmanac.com/>

Texas Department of Criminal Justice: <http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/>

Texas Department of State Health Services: <https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/>

Texas Education Agency: <http://tea.texas.gov/>

Texas Governor: <http://gov.texas.gov/>

Texas House of Representatives: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/>

Texas Legislature: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>

Texas Senate: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

Texas Web Guide: <http://web2.airmail.net/danb1/>

Top 50 Texas Websites: <http://howdyall.com/Texas/Top50/>



EPCC LIBRARIES

APA CITING

The following examples come from the American Psychological Association.
(2010) *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*.
Washington, DC: Author.

PRINT MATERIALS:

Provide as much of the following information as possible when citing print materials.

Author's last name, Initials

Year of Publication

Title of the Work

Information about editions, volume numbers, and page numbers (in parentheses following the title, with the period after the parentheses).

City of publication: name of the publisher.

A Book by a Single Author: (7.02 p. 203)

Franke, D. (2008). *Modernist heresies: British literary history, 1883-1924*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press.

Chapter in a Book: (7.02 p. 204)

Yee, N. (2009). *Online game players are often mislabeled as addicts*. In C. Fisanick (Ed.) *Addiction* (pp. 48-56). Detroit: Greenhaven Press.

Yee, N. (2009). *Online game players are often mislabeled as addicts*. In C. Fisanick (Ed.) *Addiction* (pp. 48-56). Detroit: Greenhaven Press. Retrieved from <http://infotrac.galegroup.com> (Electronic version of book)

A Book by Two or More Authors: (7.02 p. 202)

Siegel, M., Brisman, J., & Winshel, M. (1997). *Surviving an eating disorder: Strategies for family and friends* (Rev. ed.). New York: Harper.

An Article in a Reference Book: (7.02 p. 204-205)

Killian, C. (2001). Immigration to Israel. In J. Ciment (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of American immigration* (Vol. 3, pp.1023-1033). Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.

PERIODICAL PRINT MATERIALS:

An Article in a Scholarly Journal with a Digital Object Identifier (DOI): (7.01 p. 198)

Lefevre, V., Kiani, S. & Durand-Tardif, M. (2009). A focus on natural variation for abiotic constraints response in the model species *arabidopsis thaliana*. *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 10(8), 3547-3582. doi:10.3390/ijms10083547

An Article in a Scholarly Journal without a Digital Object Identifier (DOI): (7.01 p. 199)

Salter, B., & Qui, R.S. (2009). Bioethical governance and basic stem cell science: China and the global biomedicine economy. *Science and Public Policy* 36(1), 47-59.

An Article in a Newspaper: (7.01 p. 200)

Tenorio, S. (2009, June 10). United Airlines offers El Paso-Chicago link. *El Paso Times*, pp. A1, A5.

An Article in a Magazine: (7.01 p. 200)

Behen, M. (2009, June 16). Get out, get healthy. *Woman's Day*, pp. 68-69.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATION FROM AN ONLINE DATABASE: (7.01 p. 198-201)

Use the above examples when citing a scholarly journal, newspaper, or magazine found in one of the library databases and then include **Retrieved from** and the URL for the database.

An Article in a Scholarly Journal: (7.01 p. 200)

Salter, B., & Qui, R.S. (2009). Bioethical governance and basic stem cell science: China and the global biomedicine economy. *Science and Public Policy* 36(1), 47-59. Retrieved from <http://search.ebscohost.com>

An Article from the Web: (7.01 p. 200)

Clay, R. (2008, June). Science vs. ideology: Psychologists fight back about the misuses of research. *Monitor on Psychology*, 39(6). Retrieved from <http://www.apa.org/monitor/>

OTHER COMMON SOURCES:

A Film or Video Recording: (7.07 p. 209)

Linson, A. (Producer), & Cuarón, A. (Director). (2002). *Great expectations* [Motion picture]. United States: Twentieth Century Fox.

A Podcast: (7.07 p.210)

Van Nuys, D. (Producer). (2009, September 3). *Shrink rap radio* [Audio podcast]. Retrieved from <http://shrinkrapradio.mevio.com/>

Citing Resources: Print

Note: The first line of the entry is flush with the left margin, and second and subsequent lines are indented 5 spaces. All lines are double-spaced and entries are listed in alphabetical order. In MLA style, every important word of the title is capitalized, in APA style, only the first word of the title or subtitle and proper names are capitalized. (Examples are single spaced due to limitation of space.)

MLA (7th ed.)

Books

Zen and the Art of the Internet: A Beginner's Guide. 4th Ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: PTR Prentice Hall, 1996. Print.

Schneider, Barbara, and David Stevenson. *The Ambitious Generation*. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 1999. Print.

Encyclopedia Articles

Branch, Anthony D. "Gay Rights." *The Encyclopedia of Civil Rights in America*. Ed. David Bradley and Shelley F. Fishkin. 3 Vols. Armonk, NY: Sharpe, 1998. Print.

Magazine Articles

Stone, Brad. "A Top-Secret Chip Is Finally Unveiled." *Newsweek* 31 Jan. 2000: 61. Print.

Journal Articles

Gocer, Asli. "A Hypothesis Concerning the Character of Islamic Art." *Journal of the History of Ideas* 60 (1999): 683-692. Print.

Newspaper Articles

Jeromack, Paul. "This Once, a David of the Art World Does Goliath a Favor." *New York Times* 13 July 2002, late ed.: B7+. Print.

Reviews

Kauffman, Stanley. "Towards the Shadows." Rev. Of *Iris*, dir. Richard Eyre. *New Republic* 11 Feb. 2002: 26-27. Print.

Films

Dr. Strangelove. Dir. Stanley Kubrick. Perf. Peter Sellers and George C. Scott. Columbia Tristar Home Video, 1999. DVD.

APA (6th ed.)

Books

Zen and the art of the Internet: A beginner's guide (4th ed.). (1996). Upper Saddle River, NJ: PTR Prentice Hall.

Schneider, B. & Stevenson, D. (1999). *The ambitious generation*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.

Encyclopedia Articles

Branch, A. D. (1998). Gay Rights. In *The encyclopedia of civil rights in America* (Vol. 2, pp. 400-406). Armonk, NY: Sharpe.

Magazine Articles

Stone, B. (2000, January 31). A top-secret chip is finally unveiled. *Newsweek*, 61.

Journal Articles

Gocer, A. (1999). A hypothesis concerning the character of Islamic art. *Journal of the history of ideas*, 60, 683-692.

Newspaper Articles

Jeromack, P. (2002, July 13). This once, a David of the art world does Goliath a favor. *The New York Times*; pp. B7+.

Reviews

Kauffman, S. (2002, February 11). Towards the shadows [Review of the motion picture *Iris*]. *New Republic*, pp. 26-7.

Films

Kubrick, S. (Director). (1964). *Dr. Strangelove* [Motion picture]. United Kingdom: Hawk Films.

For citation formats of other resources, and for in-text and footnote citation guidelines, see a librarian at the Reference desk:

* [MLA Style Manual](#)

* [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#)

Citing Resources: Online

MLA (7th ed.)

E-books

Schlosser, Eric. *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Trade and Reference, 2001. netLibrary. Web. 2 February 2010.

Encyclopedia Articles

"Fresco Painting." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica. 2003. Web. 16 Dec. 2003.

Magazine Articles on the World Wide Web

Forbes, Daniel. "The Drug War Gravy Train." *Salon*, 31 Mar. 2000. Web. 10 Nov. 2010.

Magazine Articles from a Database

Conroy, Tom. "The Zit-geist: What Today's Teen Shows Tell Us About Today's Teenagers." *Rolling Stone* 16 Sept. 1999: 92-94. *Expanded Academic ASAP*. Web. 10 Nov. 2010.

Journal Articles from a Database

Giles, Michael W. "From Gutenberg to Gigabytes: Scholarly Communication in the Age of Cyberspace." *The Journal of Politics* 58.3 (1996): 613-626. JSTOR. Web. 10 Nov. 2010.

Newspaper Articles from a Database

Jacobs, Janet. "Schools Keeping Nuggets Off Menu; Company Insists Chicken Meat is OK." *Austin American-Statesman* 12 Feb. 2000. *Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe*. Web. 10 Nov. 2010.

Web Sites

"Noam Chomsky Archive." *Znet*. Web. 10 Nov. 2010.

Barbie Dolls." *The History Channel*. 2002. A&E Television Networks, Web. 10 Nov. 2010

APA (6th ed.)

E-books

Schlosser, E. (2001). *Fast food nation: The dark side of the all-american meal*. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Trade and Reference. Retrieved from <http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com>

Encyclopedia Articles

Fresco Painting. *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Retrieved from <http://search.eb.com>

Magazine Articles on the World Wide Web

Forbes, D. (2000, March 31). The drug war gravy train. *Salon*. Retrieved from <http://www.salon.com>

Magazine Articles from a Database

Conroy, T. (1999, September 16). The zit-geist: what today's teen shows tell us about today's teenagers. *Rolling Stone*, 92-94. Retrieved from <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>

Journal Articles from a Database

Giles, M. W. (1996). From Gutenberg to gigabytes: Scholarly communication in the age of cyberspace. *The Journal of Politics*, 58, 613-626. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org>

Newspaper Articles from a Database

Jacobs, J. (2000, February 12). Schools keeping nuggets off menu; company insists chicken meat is ok. *Austin American-Statesman*. Retrieved from <http://www.lexisnexis.com/>

Web Sites

Noam Chomsky archive. (n.d.) Znet. Retrieved from <http://www.zmag.org/chomsky/index.cfm>

Barbie dolls. (2002). The History Channel. Retrieved from <http://www.historychannel.com>



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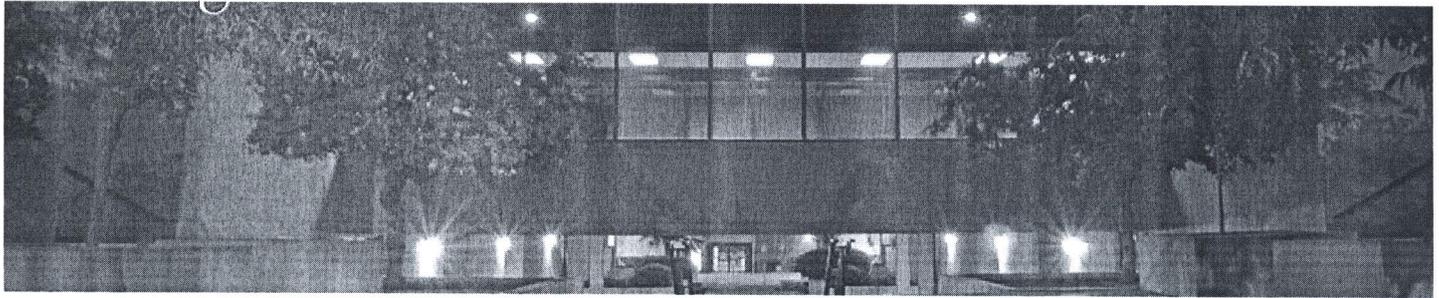
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Policy Paper
The Death Penalty in Texas

By

State & Local Government 2306
Mr. Thomas Enriquez
November 10, 2008

Outline

- I. The problem: The death penalty is needed to strengthen law and order in Texas
 - A. Capital punishment is necessary.
 - B. Capital punishment is just.
- II. The death penalty should be retained.
 - A. Prevents murder.
 - B. Deters crime.
- III. The death penalty should be supported.
 - A. It is not immoral.
 - B. Grants reasonable retribution.
- IV. Understand why the death penalty helps society.
 - A. Helps relatives of victims.
 - B. Validates the worth of the lives of all of us.
- V. My recommendation: accept the death penalty.
 - A. Put ourselves in the position of relatives of murder victims.
 - B. Be aware that even we could be victims of murderers.

The death penalty has been a debatable issue throughout history. Many argue fairness and constitutionality, saying its cruel and unusual punishment. The fact is that since 1976, capital punishment is constitutional with the qualification that it be fairly and consistently administered (ACLU, 2004). In the United States, thirty-eight states have enacted the death penalty in five legal methods of execution: lethal injection, electrocution, lethal gas, firing squad, and hanging. Of the states that permit the death penalty Texas uses the death penalty the most (Dudley, 2006).

The death penalty is needed to strengthen law and order in Texas. Texas puts more people to death because of many factors, it has the second-largest population in the Union, has a high crime rate compared to other states, and more importantly, has a justice system which does not drag its feet in carrying out death sentences. Capital punishment is necessary. Sentencing murderers to death is essential for any society that intends to preserve justice and equality (Williams, 2005). The death penalty is a matter of justice and social preservation. No punishment can truly relieve the losses inflicted by murder, and execution is the only just penalty available on earth for such crimes. Life is considered precious, therefore, the death penalty is considered the most severe punishment for the most horrible crimes. Even murderers say they value their own life more than freedom.

The death penalty should be retained. Society should not try to abolish the death penalty, it prevents murders from killing more people. Capital punishment is established in the criminal justice system, and it is hard to try to remove or reform a law to change it. There have been statistical analysis that show that each execution prevents at least eight homicides. Capital punishment is an effective punishment because it prevents people from committing murder and other capital crimes. If we don't execute murderers, then it means that we are making the decision that will lead to many additional murders in society. Furthermore, murderers think twice about killing because of the fear of being executed. Capital punishment deters crime (Egendorf, 2002).

I mentioned reasons why the death penalty should be supported and retained. Many opponents argue that it is immoral because all life, even the life who has committed murder, is sacred, rejecting the sanctity of each human life. If we bring the issue of religion and God into the situation of capital punishment, I can argue that government derives its authority from God. It is the “minister of God” with powers to revenge and to execute wrath. In other words, God uses government and law as means to punish those who commit sin, or murder. It is moral, for the life of a criminal should be given for the life of the victim. “An eye for an eye, a life for a life” The death penalty grants reasonable retribution. Retribution is kind of vengeance, but emotions are not involved. Vengeance is trying to “get back” at the criminal. Retribution is carefully calculated, reasoned, orderly process of giving punishment for the crime the criminal has committed. Retribution is based on the concept of giving payment to the wrongdoer for the crime committed, and the penalty should be proportionate to the crime (Williams, 2005).

As citizens, we want the best for us and our society. That is why we should understand why the death penalty helps society. It helps society in the way that when a murderer is executed, it helps relatives of murder victims. It brings peace of mind and serve as an important step toward recovery for grieving families. Many people who have survived the traumatic experience of losing a loved one to murder have found comfort knowing that the person responsible for their loss has been given the ultimate punishment of death. Many other murder victim’s relatives and friends say that the death penalty is a way of giving them a feeling of satisfaction for what was done to them, to make them whole. In our society, the death penalty can even help us all by not becoming the victims of murder. By using the death penalty, society demands that the lives of victims be valued as much or more than the lives of criminals. Punishing such horrible crimes with anything less than death is equal to giving murderers more than what their victims received and make us think that the life of the criminal should be protected more than the life of the victim. Capital punishment shows that society and the criminal justice system care enough for killers to have the appropriate punishment, and validated the worth of the lives of murder victims and the lives of all of us (Dudley, 2006).

My recommendation to justify why the death penalty strengthens law and order in Texas would be to accept capital punishment. Being moral or immoral, the death penalty is a fact in many states of the United States. It is very hard to change that fact and to try to influence the law so it can be abolished. We should see the death penalty as an act of justice and fairness in our society, and as establishment of law and order. Many would argue that if a member of our family is killed, we would want the murderer to pay with his own life. We should consider and put ourselves in that situation. How would you feel if your son, daughter, brother, sister, etc., was killed and you would never see him or her again? We should also consider the fact that you can fall into the hands of a murderer if he is not executed. We could be victims as well, be killed and cause the suffering of our family and friends if it were not for the death penalty.

I defend the fact that the death penalty does strengthen law and order in Texas, for the reasons I previously mentioned. Many would argue to the facts I mentioned supporting capital punishment. The death penalty is and will continue to be a controversial issue, pro and con having justifiable and reasonable reasons for their position. Regardless of how one views capital punishment, I agree that it should be imposed in a manner that is fair and consistent.

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