

### DS d'anglais n°3

Even though a majority of Americans are still in favor of the death penalty, its support has been declining over Biden's presidency. In this context, The New York Times published in August 2024 an article explaining why death penalty shouldn't be supported, followed in September 2024 by The Atlantic which published an article about the fact that innocents are executed because of flawed trials.

We can see on The New York Times' article that death penalty doesn't really deter criminals, which is supposed to be one of its main roles. Still according to The New York Times, 50 % of Americans believe that the death penalty isn't applied fairly. This correlates with The Atlantic's article, which states that between 20 and 30 innocents were executed since the capital punishment was brought back. We can also see in The New York Times that minorities such as black peoples and mentally ill peoples are way over-represented in death penalty cases. All of the above can be seen in Marcellus Williams' case, brought up by The Atlantic, where he was sentenced to death without strong evidence that he killed the victim. Even though he was black and killed a white person, 11 out of the 12 jurors were white, which can cause a huge bias. The committee charged to investigate his case was dissolved before they could find any clue and so his sentence was seemingly arbitrary, which occurs more often than not according to The New York Times. This uncertainty on the innocence of convicts can also be seen in The Atlantic's article which states that the sentence of one on nine people on death row is revoked. Americans are conscious of those issues, 78% are aware that innocents might be executed and 59% think that this happened during the past five years, so this could explain why capital punishment support is dropping in the USA. According to Pat Quinn, a previous Governor of Illinois, it's not possible to create a flawless death penalty system so it shouldn't be applied at all. Finally, according to The New York Times convicts on death row are kept alone in a cell during years before being executed, and even then the execution can often go wrong and makes them uselessly suffer, as shown by the case of Kenneth Smith in

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which Alabama tried a new execution method by Nitrogen hypoxia, which was described as a more human way to put peoples to death, but a witness said that Mr Smith suffered and agonized for a few minutes before dying. All of this seems to not respect the Eighth Amendment which prohibe cruial punishments.

As we can see in the Atlantic, more than eight peoples had been executed over the course of September and Octobre 2024, which means that statistically, one innocent has likely been killed in those two months.