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Essay 2 Stasis Theory

My topic will be regarding the death penalty and why I believe the death penalty should be prohibited in the United States. The stasis theory I will be incorporating and combining will be on quality and proposal. The reason I selected this approach is because it will describe to the reader why the death penalty is unethical and how we can resolve this concern in America. There are massive amounts of people who die unjustly due to the death penalty. It is burdensome to our economy and our way of life.

The death penalty has been utilized as a method of punishment since the 18th century. Capital punishment is immoral and a serious concern in the United States. An abundant number of convicted criminals aren’t guilty. According to senior editor and fellow Brennan Center for Justice Andrew Cohen, “Carlos DeLuna was put to death in December 1989 for a murder in Corpus Christi. Today, his case reminds us of the glaring flaws of capital punishment” (1). Carlos DeLuna was wrongfully convicted and received the death Penalty. DeLuna had the same facial characteristics and first name as the actual murderer. If DeLuna hadn’t been sentenced to the death penalty he would have still been alive to this day. This is why the death penalty is morally wrong and is a severe concern in America.

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The death penalty is morally wrong because sometimes convicted criminals suffer painfully and don’t die right away. “Dying in agony worst botched execution ever – killer’s skin rips apart and he gasps for air… By the 24th minute his body suddenly "jolted" and he opened his eyes widely, sparking panic in the death chamber in Florida's state prison” (Knox 1-2). Angel Nieves Diaz’s execution by lethal injection in a Florida State Prison went horribly wrong. While grasping for air, Diaz eyes bulged and his skin turned black from chemical burns. Capital punishment was extremely painful for Diaz and continuing to accept the death penalty as a form of maximum punishment is morally wrong.

I propose that we ultimately remove the death penalty and leave the convicted prisoners in prison. If prisoners stay in jail for a lifetime, taxpayers and the justice system will save a substantial amount of money. According to the California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, “Using conservative rough projections, the Commission estimates the annual costs of the present system ($137 million per year), the present system after implementation of the reforms … ($232.7 million per year) … and a system which imposes a maximum penalty of lifetime incarceration instead of the death penalty ($11.5 million).” The average price to keep prisoners incarcerated in California is 11 million dollars and it costs 230 million when incorporating the death penalty. We can resolve this problem if the death penalty is completely abolished and the prisoners would stay in prison for life.

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Taxpayers are indirectly contributing to the mass murder of human life. 1,516 have died in the United States due to the death penalty. Texas with the highest deaths have killed 562 people since 1972. Some might argue that the majority of death row inmates die from natural causes. I agree with the facts being presented however that contradicts the purpose of having this punishment enacted in the first place. How many more people need to die? We have an opportunity to stop this but we don’t show initiative.

States across America are illegally importing lethal injection drugs. The failure rate of lethal injection was 7.1%, higher than any other form of execution. The drugs used to perform a lethal injection are Pancuronium bromide, potassium chloride, and midazolam for sedation. The cost of these drugs is rising and becoming more difficult to get. Texas attempted to outsource the drug to India but the FDA seized the shipment. The supplier of these drugs was operating an illegal business. According to buzzfeed “Texas was in contact with an Indian drug supplier, Provizer Pharma, to obtain lethal injection drugs, just weeks before Indian narcotics control agents raided Provizer Pharma for the illegal sale of generic Xanax, generic Ritalin, opiods, and other drugs.”. You can't break the law to enforce the law. How are they any better than the inmates they put to death? The state government and federal government are in a legal battle due to this controversy. The ethics of this dysfunctional system is why the death penalty has proven to be ineffective.

Most death row inmates do not get executed for decades. Only 24% of condemned inmates have been executed. America is spending money on something that is not a viable solution. The numbers don’t add up and we as a society have to reform this flaw. Some inmates even prefer to be a death penalty inmate due to the increase of money the state spends on their quality of life. We could use this money for the rehabilitation of the inmates opposed to their incarceration. Also, we can even use it this money to build more prisons to reduce the

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overcrowding that is occurring nationwide. Knowing you can die at any time must cause severe mental instability.

Killing someone for a crime they committed defeats the purpose of prison. The four main purposes of prison are retribution, incapacitation, deterrence and rehabilitation. The end goal of sending someone to prison was originally meant to rehabilitate them. This is a dysfunctional system and is completely flawed. How can we kill someone we are trying to rehabilitate? This doesn’t make any sense no matter how you present this. Nobody deserves this no matter the crime. There is good and bad to everyone and who are we to judge? Not even a sworn judge can wash the inhumanity of his hands.

Over twenty percent of all prison inmates have serious mental health concerns. Also, this number increases substantially to prisoners sent to death row. Inmates develop death row syndrome. Inmates with this specific syndrome may display suicidal tendencies and psychotic delusions. The constant fear of death and the unknown have a phycological impact. It contradicts the notion that we are attempting to rehabilitate these inmates but then we indirectly cause the deuteration of their mental health.

There should be no job in this world that involves legally killing another person. This person has to go to bed every night knowing they deliberately took a life. It has a substantial impact on the executioner mental health. Research has shown 31% of executioners will suffer from PTSD. They must always hide their job title because they feel ashamed. Living a life of secrecy and always looking over their shoulder. They go to work knowing there are just as guilty as they people they murder.

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Capital punishment of lethal injection is unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment. In the article Gruesome Spectacles: Botched Executions and America’s Death Penalty Bray Diedre states, “administering lethal injections, the primary method of capital punishment in the jurisdictions which still administer the death penalty, was unconstitutional under the Eighth Amendment” (1). Deirdre believes that the death penalty is unlawful because the Eighth Amendment states that there should be no cruel or unusual punishments administered. How do we solve the death penalty in America? Sarat argues, “that another strong factoring developing supposedly more efficient ways to execute was the need to make capital punishment acceptable by sanitizing or secreting the process” (2). He wants the death penalty to be perfected or to be hidden. Although, it isn’t ideal it is better than torturing and killing innocent people.

The justice system is considered to be biased when it comes to a black man killing a white man. According to the article Killing with Prejudice: Race and the Death Penalty in the USA , “Even under the most sophisticated death-penalty statutes, race continues to play a major role in determining who shall live and who shall die” (Amnesty International May 1999 Race plays a big role on who doesn’t get the death penalty and who does. If you are a black man who kills a white man, the justice system will send you to the death penalty. However, if you are white man the police might investigate you and you probably wont get the death penalty. The only way to eradicate ethnic bias and racism in America, is to eliminate the death penalty indefinitely.

Capital punishment goes against religious beliefs. Buddhism is completely against capital punishment. Also, the Roman Catholic church opposes the death penalty. According to United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, “Twenty-five years ago, our Conference of bishops first

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called for an end to the death penalty. We renew this call to seize a new moment and new momentum. This is a time … in the Catholic community to bring about an end to the use of the death penalty in our land” (1). The Catholic’s haven’t wanted the death penalty for 25 years and they want to completely end the death penalty. They place great emphasis on non-violence and compassion for all life. As a youth, we were always taught to respect religious beliefs. I agree that there needs to be accountability for misconduct. However, we need to have a justified balance. How can we condone something that completely violates the foundation of our belief system? No religion will publicly support the cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment of death. Governments across the world are known to set examples for the purpose of deterring crime. They are very efficient at utilizing the news media to send the right message. According to David P. Magnani, “Many studies have shown that, in order for a punishment to be an effective deterrent, certain conditions are necessary. Among them: punishment needs to be meted out swiftly, it needs to be seen as being equally applied, i.e. not seen as social scapegoating, and the perpetrator must believe that they will be caught. Rarely, if ever, are these conditions met” (1). The majority of criminals never fully understand the repercussions for their actions. Some are oblivious to reality and assume they will never be caught. Capital punishment has proven to be ineffective at deterring crime from happening. Nor does it rehabilitate the offender after the crime has been committed. The logic of this punishment has no substance in today's America.

The action that should be taken instead of the death penalty, is solitary confinement for life. This would force convicted criminals to be stuck in a small four by four wall, forcing them to be stuck with their thoughts. Convicted criminal William Blake wrote an essay and stated that, “I deserved to die for what I had done. I took the life of a man … an act so monumentally

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wrong … What nobody knew or suspected back then … I would begin suffering a punishment that I am convinced beyond all doubt is far worse than any death sentence could possibly have been” (2). Blake suffered more in solitary confinement and wished who would have gotten the death penalty. The death penalty is supposed to be the maximum punishment, but according to Blake, solitary confinement is the worse punishment.

America should entirely replace capital punishment with life in prison without parole. There are too many benefits for America not to acknowledge the potential. Over the years the popularity to abolish the death penalty has been increasing. It is becoming more difficult for states to punish an inmate for death. As a result, there has been less deaths in America related to capital punishment. Saving American lives should be our main priority.

The death penalty should be abolished in America and convicted criminals should stay in prison for the rest of their lives. The stasis theory that I incorporated and combined was on quality and proposal. The reason I selected this approach is because it helps describe to the reader why the death penalty is unethical and how we can resolve, and change this concern in America. There are multiple alternatives to incorporate when it comes to the death penalty. However, if we completely eradicate the death penalty, wrongly convicted criminals will have a chance to prove their innocence and taxpayers will pay substantially less money to prisons.

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