Names: Sarah Ballinger, Jude Battista, Keenan Robinson, Amon Sthapit, Nate Esrey

Activity #5: Actors and Arenas in American Politics: Gun Control

We affirm that this is the exclusive work of the above-named students created without using other sources (including other students or their writing) except as cited.

Stance: Law Enforcement Officer

**Proposal:** As Law Enforcement Officials, we support a general ban of firearms on public college campuses. Anyone on campus in university housing, in university affiliated housing, and/or any visitor or individual on university owned property would be affected under the ban. Those that live off campus and wish to be responsible firearm owners would have to keep these possessions off campus. In the interests of public safety and security, law enforcement officers are exempt from this ban, as are university security officers that have had the proper weapon training and certification. This armed security must also be trained by state or local law enforcement agencies on firearm safety and employment.

While private universities maintain the autonomy to set their own firearm policy, any university permitting the carry of firearms on campus is liable in the event of death or injury caused by a legally carried firearm.

**Ideological Fit:**

Authoritarian

As Law Enforcement Officials, we believe that the state maintains a monopoly on the employment of force in a civil capacity. As a concession to resource limitations, we are willing to support the employment of armed security by universities and colleges, however we require those armed personnel to be trained and licensed by a state or federal law enforcement agency. The democratization of force creates chaos and represents a clear and immediate danger to the citizenry.

Constrained

We also believe that people are, in general, inherently evil by nature and that we are better off being cautious of this human nature rather than to risk the safety of a larger group of people. Because of this view of human nature it is our duty as officers of the law to help protect humanity against its evil nature. As law enforcement officers, we often encounter people who indulge in unsafe acts of violence (intentionally or unexpectedly) and believe that a stricter law would promote the safety of people.

**Criticisms and Responses:**

Student sport shooter: The Second Amendment states that one has the right to bear arms in the privacy of his or her home. This poses an issue to the general ban of firearms on public college campuses policy, as those who claim that the resident hall on the college campus is his or her home. The college would respond that said student is living in the college’s residence hall and is leasing a room for an amount of time, therefore the college campus is able to impose rules and regulations onto the student. If the student does not abide by the policy, then the college campus would have to remove the student from campus housing.

 Libertarian state legislator objection:

This policy consolidates power in the hands of the government at the expense of individual agency, making it abhorrent to me. As a libertarian I believe that ultimately individuals are responsible for their own safety. While the government should promote public safety, it should do so with minimal imposition on individual rights, and this ban far exceeds any reasonable interpretation of that threshold. Further, since any individual willing to commit murder is unlikely to respect a firearm ban this policy effectively only disarms law-abiding citizens violating their right to self-defense while failing to protect them from criminals.

Rebuttal: While criminals are unlikely to respect this ban, professional law enforcement officers are the best counter to criminal activity. A lethal weapon in the hands of an untrained, inexperienced shooter is likely to do more harm than good in a crisis situation. Even in the military, whose members receive months of training in the employment of weapons, battlefield experience is considered critical to a shooter’s development. How then should we entrust deadly force to a rank amateur? Such faith is best placed in the professional, experienced agents of the state.