Qinghang Hong

Professor Scamahorn

Writing 1

March 8, 2018

More Guns, More Violence

Another tragedy of gun massacre killed 17 lovely people happened at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida only three weeks ago. And let’s not forget the 2 students died and 18 injured in Marshall County High school just in January 2018. And let’s not forget in 2014, a gunman killed six people and injured 14 others near the University of California, Santa Barbara. How many tragedies should take to get the government’s attention to address the school safety and gun violence? To end the tragedies, we must limit the use of guns. Guns are helping criminals to kill innocent people and bring fear to the public.

Allowing concealed gun-carry on campus is not the right way to end the school shootings. Some may argue that guns can keep the threats away and protect themselves at dangerous moments. However, use of guns for self-defense is rare occurrence. More guns on campuses will bring the fear in the air of campuses. When people realize everyone, including students and teachers, have guns in their pockets, the trust and relaxing studying environment is destroyed. “Will students be willing to engage in thoughtful debate if they know a fellow classmate has a gun in his backpack? Will professors meet with struggling students to discuss their grades if the person is armed? (Fry, 257)” The relationship between people will be distorted because of the presence of guns. Moreover, students and teachers will be hugely distracted from learning environments.

In President Trump’s listening session, a teacher makes a point that “The teachers’ job is teaching. We should not worry about carrying guns. Instead, we should arm our students with knowledge to intervene and prevent the shootings happen.”(Trump’s listening session) The government should fund for the mental health programs and carry out training programs for every student and teacher at school. The knowledge to identify suspicious activities and person can be very important to prevent potential killing occur. The training will help students and teachers react in a proper way to protect themselves and their peers under extreme circumstances. And the mental health programs will help the people who are at risk hurting others and themselves to calm down and keep away from murders.

No rights are unlimited, especially when it threatens others basic right to survive. There were 464,033 total gun deaths between 1999 and 2013: 270,237 suicides (58.2% of total deaths); 174,773 homicides (37.7%); and 9,983 unintentional deaths (2.2%). Guns were the leading cause of death by homicide (66.6% of all homicides) and by suicide (52.2% of all suicides) (Gun Control - ProCon.org.)The frequent shootings are endangering every one of us. Gun control can effectively reduce the deaths caused by gun shootings. It’s correct that guns don’t kill people, however, they help the killing much easier and more dangerously. With guns, the killers can easily murder innocent people like ending a life of an ant. The killers become much more powerful and scary, giving the society much more danger and fear. If the killers do not have guns, they are not able to do as much as damage to the society, Nowadays, it is too easy for criminals and people with mental health issues to get a gun and start to kill innocent people. America is the one of few countries where people can readily purchase a gun. This country provides many opportunities for people with bad intentions to carry out their plan and start mass shootings. Even though some will argue that the determined shooters can still obtain the guns illegally, the restrictions on guns will make the purchase so much harder, forcing a lot of people to give up their evil plans. Thus, restrictions on guns will help America to address the gun violence.

# Some people argue that owning a gun can protect themselves, however, guns for self-defense is very rare. “Over a three-year period from 2013 to 2015, only 1.1 percent of victims of attempted or completed violent crimes used a firearm, and only 0.2 percent of victims of attempted or completed property crimes used a firearm. (Martelle, Gun and self-defense statistics that might surprise you -- and the NRA)” The statistics shows that how minimal effect that guns have under the extreme circumstances. Most people are not able to use a gun to stop the crimes. And more ironically, “**In 2014, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 34 criminal homicides.(** Martelle, Gun and self-defense statistics that might surprise you -- and the NRA**)” The guns are apparently used to commit crimes much more often than stop a crime. The danger that guns brought by guns are far more than the protection and safety people think they have. The logic that allowing guns make us safe is naturally flawed. The argument is based on the hypothesis that don’t happen in reality.**

The Second Amendment of constitution reads, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Many people only know the second part, “the right of the people to keep and bear arms” and completely ignore the important prerequisite of “the right to bear arms” is that “well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State.” The intention of our founding fathers was to ensure the rights to bear arms in the military to protect our country against our enemies and law-breakers. The text told us that the military has all the rights of guns. However, there was no clear indication that the Second Amendment protects the individual’s unlimited right to own a gun. Allowing assault guns in civilians’ hands does not make the state secure. Instead, the guns bring much more crimes and chaos in the public.

**Our government should start to carry out stricter gun control laws to prevent the tragedies happen again. The lawmakers must draw a clear line on all of assault weapons, including automatic, semi-automatic guns that are detrimental the public safety and ban them permanently. Also, a more advanced background-check system should be created and enforced in every corner of our country, preventing those who are at risk hurting others to get guns. The number of people who are eligible to purchase a gun should be heavily limited and they must be investigated thoroughly before owning a gun. The US should remove as many guns as possible in the civilians’ hands to prevent more criminal and accidental shootings. Furthermore, the guns must be banned carrying completely in the important public places, such as school campuses, movie theaters and museums to ensure the security publicly. Nowadays, most school campuses are open to anyone who may harm our lovely students. To reassure the safety of the school and the students-our bright future, the schools should set a checkpoint at the gate and enclose the school to prevent any gun threats entering the campuses. In addition, to protect the students, several police officers must be present at schools.**

**In conclusion, the American civilians should not own the assault weapons because the guns have too much damage to our society. The increasing number of series shooting massacre caused too many innocent people to die. The unstoppable tragedies must draw our attention to restrict the guns. More guns in the public and schools will cause fear and disturb the studying and working environments for everyone of us. Guns also helps the criminals to kill people much more easily and massacre more innocent lives, bringing detrimental effects on our society. In addition, the gun right is not limitless. The guns are threatening our right to survive. The safety of this country and basic living rights must be satisfied before anything else.**

Work Cited:

Fry, John A. “Allowing Guns Won’t Make Campuses Safer” *American Now*, edition 12, 2017, pp. 255-257

The White House, director. *President Trump Holds a Listening Session with High School Students and Teachers*. *YouTube*, YouTube, 21 Mar. 2018, www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKblXAikzEhttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv.

Akhavan, Kambiz. “Gun Control - ProCon.org.” *Should More Gun Control Laws Be Enacted in the United States?*, 3 Apr. 2017, gun-control.procon.org/.

Martelle, Scott. “Gun and Self-Defense Statistics That Might Surprise You -- and the NRA.” *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles Times, 19 June 2015, www.latimes.com/opinion/opinion-la/la-ol-guns-self-defense-charleston-20150619-story.html.