Issue Question: Is Capital Punishment moral?

1. If capital punishment is used to murder murderers, then capital punishment is an immoral and endless cycle.
   1. If capital punishment is used to murder murderers, then the people that execute prisoners on death row are guilty of murder, and deserving of the same penalty.
      1. Capital punishment is most commonly used on criminals guilty of homicide(s).
         1. The majority of crimes that merit the death penalty in any given state are homicides.
            1. Many states that have the death penalty don’t execute for any other crimes. (http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cp10st.pdf)
   2. If the people that execute prisoners on death row are guilty of murder and deserving of the death penalty, then capital punishment is an immoral and endless cycle.
      1. The very existence of capital punishment creates murderers out of people that would never have murdered anyone in their lives; completely opposite of the purpose of the program.
2. Capital punishment is used to murder murderers.
   1. If the main justification of capital punishment is “an eye for an eye,” to deter future criminals, then capital punishment is used to murder murderers.
      1. The execution of murderers is hypocritical, because it causes the executioners to be murderers, worthy of death penalty.
         1. This is an endless cycle: executioner becomes and murderer, causing the whole process to start over again unending.
   2. The main justification of capital punishment is “an eye for an eye” to deter future criminals.
      1. Support for the death penalty has been steadily declining, although 32 states still allow capital punishment. (<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>)
         1. While declining, a higher proportion of religious folk support the death penalty than those not affiliated with a religion; they highest percentage is 67% of white evangelical protestants favoring capital punishment. (http://www.pewforum.org/2014/03/28/shrinking-majority-of-americans-support-death-penalty/)
      2. People in favor of capital punishment typically state deterrence as a main reasoning: the belief that having would-be criminals know of their possible execution if they commit murder, less criminals will turn into murderers, out of fear for the law. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/capitalpunishment/for_1.shtml#h2>)
         1. It’s worth noting that there has been no shown correlation between capital punishment and the deterrent of would-be criminals.
3. Capital punishment is an immoral and endless cycle.