

2. Persuasive essay:

Guns in Our Lives

In 1998, 30,708 deaths were caused by firearms in the United States. Of that number, 12,102 were murders, 17,424 were suicides, 366 were accidents, 316 had unknown reasons, and only 154 were confirmed to be in self-defense. Guns are currently being used in this society for murders, celebration, hunting and gang activity. Guns are used in the drill team, for war and by the police force. Guns should not be used in such ways where others could be harmed or killed. They should be used only for self-defense to protect themselves and their valuables, not as weapons to take other's lives.

The Gun Owners Foundation says that guns save more lives than they take and prevent more injuries than they inflict. However, that is very untrue. The usage of guns for self defense to not self-defense ratio is 1:22. For every time a gun is used in self-defense, there are 22 shootings that are not. Also, gun violence costs the nation about one hundred billion dollars a year. Eighty per cent of the money used to treat firearm injuries comes from taxpayer dollars.

The Gun Owners Foundation says that criminals avoid armed citizens. A law in a city in Florida that required at least one gun in every household caused the crime rate in that city to drop 89%. Another law that permitted the carrying of concealed weapons dropped the homicide rate by 36%. But having a gun in a household raises the risk of a homicide or suicide. A household with a gun is three times more likely to have a homicide using a gun and five times more likely to have a suicide using a gun. Suicide is not a crime, but it is still a death and is just as bad. Guns are clearly dangerous, no matter how they are used. Even though a household may have a gun, the head of the household may not be trained in using a gun, and may cause an accidental shooting.

The Gun Owners Foundation also says that gun control such as the Brady Bill, is not the answer and it doesn't reduce the number of violent crimes; therefore, its members do not want strict gun control laws. The Brady Bill requires a five-day waiting period and extensive background check on the person wanting to buy a gun before he or she is

allowed to have one. This should prevent criminals from having a gun in their hands, but it really doesn't. There are about 192 million privately owned guns in the United States, 65 million of which are handguns. An estimated 1 -3 million guns are illegally sold or traded, meaning that criminals can still get their hands on a deadly firearm. What is really needed is better and stricter gun control, not elimination of it.

Guns are very unsafe. Forty-three per cent of households with children have guns. One in ten are loaded and only one in eight have the child safety lock. Not all parents are stressing to keep their kids safe and away from guns where many accidents can happen. Guns also take away many lives of young people. There were 1,409 teen suicides using a gun and 1,671 teen murders. Those startling numbers should make parents aware of how dangerous it is to have a gun where their child can get it.

Also, there have been many arguments about the Second Amendment where it says, "a well regulated militia...the right of the people to keep and bear arms." People in favor of guns say that it is their right to own and carry a weapon. Although the Second Amendment does state "the right to keep and bear arms," it is taken out of context, leaving out the important part about a well-regulated militia. The Second Amendment states that it is the right for a militia to have weapons, not every one.

Guns pose a high danger in the world. Guns are necessary, and the positive values of a gun are not great enough to balance out all the negative values they have. Guns take lives, no doubt about it. There needs to be much stricter gun control laws that prevent criminals from getting deadly weapons. They will certainly prevent much of the gun violence committed. A world without guns except in the hands of law enforcers would be a much safer place. Even though all crimes cannot be prevented, many lives will be saved.