

HAND GUN CONTROL

Group Activity

Introduction

Guns, especially handguns, figure prominently in crime after crime. It has been estimated that about half of all American families possess at least one firearm in the home. And the nation's gun supply is growing.

Over the last 20 years, national public opinion surveys have indicated that Americans throughout the nation and from all walks of life are supportive of stricter handgun laws. However, even though the public favors stricter controls, a majority of Americans oppose an outright ban on the sale or possession of handguns.

The Second Amendment states, "A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bare arms, shall not be infringed." Let's consider the interpretation of this statement.

Objectives

- To consider local, state, and national lawmaking powers
- To be aware of the common pro/con arguments regarding gun control

Materials

3 x 5 cards with "Handgun Control: Arguments Against" and "Handgun Control: Arguments For"

Discussion Questions for Handgun Control

Activity

1. Distribute the 14 arguments for and against handgun control to individual students or pairs of students.
2. Students without statements should categorize each statement as for or against gun control as the statements are read aloud by each student.
3. After listening to the 14 arguments, ask students if there are any additional arguments to be made.
4. The teacher may then use the discussion questions in class. Students should debate the issue.

DEBATE

Conduct a debate using the Arguments in Favor of and Against the Death Penalty.