

# Gun Control-Feature Article

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## **Preparation**

Read and highlight the article on gun control. Watch assorted movies on guns and gun control. Learn about guns and gun control in Forensic class.

Read and discuss different aspects of gun control. In addition, discuss statistics and scenarios which support or dispute different views on gun control. Talk to others concerning their views on gun control.

## **Formulate Topic and/or Thesis**

The following is a list of possible theses which you may use directly, or use to help you formulate your own thesis.

- ☞ No one should be allowed to own (hand) guns.
- ☞ Only law enforcement and the military should be allowed to own (hand) guns.
- ☞ Anyone who qualifies for a gun should be allowed to own a gun.
- ☞ Only guns used for hunting should be allowed to be purchased or sold.
- ☞ Current gun control laws do little to lesson crime in the USA.
- ☞ Current gun control laws are fair, and provide protection from violent crimes involving firearms.
- ☞ More strict gun laws are needed to . . .
- ☞ Strict gun control laws only make it more difficult for the common person to protect themselves.
- ☞ The Brady Bill (5 day waiting period and background check) does little to deter violent crimes involving fire arms.
- ☞ The Brady Bill (5 day waiting period and background check) does deter violent crimes involving firearms.
- ☞ The “Right to bear arms” doesn’t mean anyone can own a gun.
- ☞ The “Right to bear arms” gives every citizen the right to own a gun.
- ☞ Our “Right to bear arms” is too expensive. (death)
- ☞ Gun control laws should. . .
- ☞ Current gun control laws do a poor job of . . .
- ☞ Current gun laws are not doing a good job of keeping America safe.
- ☞ Parents should not be allowed to have a gun in their house.
- ☞ The educational system should strive to inform youth about guns and gun control.
- ☞ The new concealed weapon law will cost lives.
- ☞ The new concealed weapon law will save lives.
- ☞ The process in which a person can receive a permit to conceal a weapon is absurd.
- ☞ Gun control wouldn’t be a problem if. . .
- ☞ Regardless of how strict the law is, criminals will always find a way to get guns.
- ☞ No one should be allowed to own an assault weapon.

**Write an Outline**

After formulating a thesis, write an outline similar to the following format. You may include more detail on your outline, but no less.

Title \_\_\_\_\_

- I. Thesis- \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- II. 1st Main Point \_\_\_\_\_
- III. 2nd Main Point \_\_\_\_\_
- IV. 3rd Main Point \_\_\_\_\_
- VI. Conclusion:

**Writing the Article**

This article should be very involving. You want to shock, reason, or trick the reader into seeing things your way. Thus you should only use data and examples which back up your position. ***Don't tell both sides, this is not a report on gun control;*** you are to defend a position. Write an article that will convince readers of your arguments on gun control.

**Format**

Your article must be in a format which would be fit for a magazine or newspaper. Therefore, it ***must have a title, be written in column form, and contain pictures.*** Your article should be exactly one, two, or three pages, including several of the following attributes:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Situations            | Opinions  |
| Key Words             | Graphs    |
| Subject Headings      | Scenarios |
| Supporting Statistics | Quotes    |
| References            |           |

\*Any picture or graph used in your article must be referenced.\*

**In the Library**

You may look in the following places for "inserts" into your gun control article.

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|----------------|---|
| Encyclopedia   | Books   |
| Vertical files | Magazines                                     |
| Internet       | Computers: SIRs, InfoTrac, Information Finder |