

Outline for an Informative Speech

April 4, 2001

Death Penalty Debate

Attention	<p>This is Cary Ann Medlin. She was an average 8 year old girl. Unfortunate for her, one day on her way home a man convinced her that he knew her father and persuaded her into his car. This man's name is Robert Croe, and after kidnapping this adorable little girl he raped her and killed her. While he was doing this she repeated over and over, "<i>Jesus loves you, Jesus loves you.</i>" The crime against this young girl has been committed; the question now at hand is whether or not he deserves to be executed for what he has done.</p> <p>(visual aid and narration)</p>
Motivation	<p>I'm sure you are all thinking that this isn't a question you will ever have to think about personally; but you never know, this could happen to your family, your little sister.</p>
Overview	<p>I'm sure you are all familiar with the death penalty, and today, I will be talking about the controversy that surrounds it. There are two sides to this debate: those for or those against; they differ on the morality of capital punishment. I will discuss both sides and show how they each make their case.</p>
<p>(Transition)</p> <p><u>Thought Pattern:</u> pro-con</p>	<p>(First I will start with the side against the death penalty.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Body</p> <p>I. There are many arguments against the death penalty, most of which I'm sure you know a lot about, such as -- that it is cruel and unusual punishment, it is more expensive than life imprisonment, and that innocent people have been executed. Today I would like to focus on four others, which you may not know so much about.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A. The first argument I will be discussing is that the Bible says the death penalty is wrong.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. John 8:1 states "Let anyone who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." 2. Furthermore, Matthew 6:14-15 reads: "For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (testimony)
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">B. The second argument is that the death penalty does not deter crime.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cesare Beccaria, when speaking out against the death penalty in his book <i>Essays on Crime and Punishment</i> says "It is not the intenseness of the pain that has the greatest effect on the mind, but its continuance; for we are more powerfully affected by weak but repeated impressions, than by a violent momentary impulse... The death of a criminal is a terrible but momentary spectacle, and therefore a less efficacious method of deterring others, than the example of a man deprived of his liberty." (testimony)
	<p style="padding-left: 40px;">C. The next two arguments say that the death penalty is biased against two sets of people: African Americans and the poor.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African Americans are over represented on death row; especially when

	<p>killing whites.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This shows that they are less valued than whites, even to the point of death. (explanation) b. <i>Chart</i> (statistics and visual aid) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Unfair to the poor, because they don't receive good defense. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Public defenders have many cases at one time. b. Many are not good; hired on a bid bases. (explanation)
(Internal summary)	(Several key arguments of the opposition to the death penalty involve the fairness and morality of this punishment.)
(Internal transition)	(Now onto the pro points. Most of which are just counterpoints to the arguments made by the other side.)
	<p>II. Supporters of the death penalty say that the Bible does not condemn these executions, but in fact is in favor of them.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Some examples they are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exodus 21:23, which says "You shall give life for life." 2. 1 Peter 2:13-14 "let every person be subjected to the governing authorities...for the authority does not bear the sword in vein." (testimony and examples) B. They also say that the death penalty does cause deterrence. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 100% effective because every time used the prisoner dies and the murderer will never commit another crime once executed. (statistics) C. When opponents to the death penalty say that it is biased and, therefore, not applied fairly. People who are pro death penalty then say that if this argument is used against the death penalty it can be used against all punishments and that is to say if the punishment were "fairly" imposed it would then be okay. (explanation)
	<p>D. Advocates of the death penalty then add to that, that the death penalty is morally right.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Morality is defined as "the principles of right and wrong;" therefore, as moral creatures, we deserve praise for our good deeds and punishment for what we do wrong. Also, that the punishment should fit the crime. (definition) 2. They then add that murderers are not innocent people fighting to save their lives; that statement describes their victims. (Examples and explanation)
(Internal summary)	(With that I have finished my discussion on the case of the pro death penalty side.)
	Conclusion
Underview	The death penalty is truly a controversial topic today and a hard one to decide on because both sides of it present strong cases.
Last Thought	I know we all think that this is something that we will never have to deal with, but it can happen to any one of us at any given time. After hearing both sides of the debate, what do you think you would do?

Student's Speech Analysis Form

Name: Martha Nergenh Class hour: 9:00 a.m.

Speech Topic: The Death Penalty Debate Date: 4-4-01

1. Audience type/name:

Fundamentals of Communication Class.

2. What level of knowledge about my topic does this audience have?

The audience probably has a general knowledge of the subject.

3. What is the attitude of this audience to my topic?

Everyone most likely has a strong opinion on the subject, either for or against.

4. What is the specific purpose of this speech for the audience?

The purpose is to inform the audience to both sides of the death penalty debate so they can make a more educated decision about where they stand on the idea of it.

5. What is the thesis of this speech (in one or two sentences):

I'm sure that you are all familiar with the death penalty, and today I will be talking about the controversy that surrounds it. There are two main arguments to this debate: for or against.

REFERENCES

(include interviews and personal background, as well as print sources)

Hanks, Gardener C. Against the Death Penalty: Christian and Secular Arguments Against Capital Punishment. Pennsylvania: Herald Press, 1997.

Long, Robert Emmet. Criminal Sentencing. New York: H.W. Wilson, 1995.

Pro-Death Penalty. <www. prodeathpenalty.com.> 2001

Wekesser, Carol. Death Penalty: Opposing Viewpoints. San Diego: Greenhaven Press, 1991.