**The Second Amendment**

"The U.S. population owns more guns per capita than any other country in the world, that more people die from guns in the U.S. than any other country.” (Kelly 2017) Why is it that guns are so popular in the U.S.? Are guns safe and should they be allowed to any person? Guns need to be controlled due to the violence that they cause. There are many deaths caused by these weapons and it is important that we do what we can to keep our citizens safe.

Why was the second amendment included in the Constitution? What is the actual purpose of this amendment? This are important questions to ask in order to fully understand the reason behind the second amendment. 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 bear Arms, shall not be infringed.” In history, people were afraid that the government would have too much power by having an army for every situation. To regulate the power, it was decided that the government would have a armies that were only needed to fight in foreign issues. These troops are full-time, properly trained, and paid. The government would then need to rely on militias within the different states to act on emergencies and sudden issues, for example, a sudden attack or invasion. The militia is made up of civilians who supplied their own weapons and were partly trained. These people were also unpaid. The militia is now know as the National Guard. The right to bear arms was given to the citizens in order to protect themselves from the federal government.

 For a long time, Americans have been arguing over the meaning of the second amendment. There are two ways the amendment has been interpreted. One way that it has been interpreted is that the second amendment means that the right to bear arms is given to those of specific organizations, like the National Guard and the Army, and not to individual citizens. The opposite side of this argument is that some feel that the amendment gives the right to each individual citizen to bear arms in order to protect themselves in case of an emergency. (Brooks 2017)

If the right to own a gun was originally created for the militia men, what are guns being used for today? Guns are used for a lot of things. Hunting is a sport where guns are extremely useful. There are many people that eat what they hunt. Others find peace in connecting with nature as they hunt. It is argued that guns are necessary for effective hunting. Other sports may include target shooting and biathlon, which is even included in the Olympics.

Guns are also used for self defense. Executive vice President of the National Rifle Association often says, “The only way to stop a bad guy with a gun is with a good guy with a gun.” The idea is that when one has a gun, they are able to protect themselves and others from someone that is causing harm. This is a very popular argument. Currently in society, there is an argument that more people should carry guns within the community to help protect others from an extreme situation. For example, school teachers and other leaders within the community.

Guns can be used for these certain activities, but can also cause a lot of harm. Guns cause more arm than good. If a person is threatening you with a gun and you feel the need to respond with a gun, this just shows that guns are not safe and should not be in the hands of certain people. Does the “right to bear arms” apply to individual citizens? Should this right only be given to authorized persons? This is the issue that we are faced with. How much good do guns actually do?

A real problem with citizens owning guns is that the guns are in the home. There are many deaths of young children, typically 25 years old and younger, that die from accidental shootings within the home. When a firearm is in the home, homicide and suicide rates go up. ("Gun Violence: Facts and Statistics" 2017)

Just as it was mentioned before, a lot of Americans feel that guns will protect them. Many studies show that owning a gun actually increases a person’s risk of bodily harm and death. This year in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* found that 80 million Americans who keeps guns in the home are 90 percent more likely to die by homicide than Americans who don’t. ("The truth about guns and self-defense" 2015)

 There have been 17 school shootings just within these first few months of the year 2018 (Ahmed & Walker 2018). This is a shocking number. The shooters in these statistics vary from being a student to being a teacher, or just being a random person. What is the problem here? There are weapons being brought into schools, that are filled with young children, that are killing and injuring many students. These school shootings have caused a lot of contention within the argument of gun control. These shootings are grabbing peoples attention and showing that guns are dangerous and kill. Innocent lives are being lost due to these dangerous weapons.

Does the media have an influence on gun violence? Are young children learning violent actions through TV, movies, and video games? Yes. The media has an influence on people in so many ways, but specifically in violence. Children who watch gun violence on television are more likely to pull the trigger than those that don’t. likely Researchers at Ohio State University did a study on this idea. They showed one group of kids a video with gun violence and a second group a video without. They then gathered the children in a room where in the there was a real but disabled pistol. Those that watched the violent film held the gun longer and pulled the trigger more times than the children who had watched the video without guns. (Kelly 2017)

There needs to be more control on what is allowed on the media. Children get a false idea that guns and other weapons are ok to mess around with. In the movies we see that it is ok to be violent and in many cases, it is cool to express violence using a gun. We do not always see the influence that the media has, but it can have immediate effects on young children. That it is why it is important to keep guns away from children.

Guns need to be controlled. There are too many accidents caused by the danger of guns. Parents should not be afraid to send their children to school because they are worried about a mass shooting. All it takes is one bullet to completely change a person and their family’s life. The statistics show that guns do more damage than good. Guns need to be in the correct hands, like properly trained authority figures. The second amendment was created to keep us safe by allowing the militia to bear arms. When citizens own guns, guns are no longer keeping us safe.

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