

Gun Control Argumentative Essay Outline

⇒ Formal Outline Example

Thesis: The call for stricter gun control policies is a must in our society today.

- I. Guns are one of the leading causes of violence in the United States today.
 - A. Guns are too easily obtained for any reason, by any person.
 1. The United States is one of the easiest countries in which to purchase firearms.
 - a. In 24 states, anyone who is 18 or older can walk into a store, fill out a form, and leave with a gun.
 - b. The Brady Bill has not gone far enough.
 2. The United States has an estimated 211 million firearms in circulation.
 - a. Of these, 70 million are handguns.
 - b. One in every two households contains a gun.
 - B. Gun violence occurs in our streets, schoolyards, and workplaces.
- II. Laws should be passed, requiring gun owners to be licensed in the same way car drivers are licensed.
 - A. Obtaining a license would require a background check, fingerprinting, and passing a firearms training course.
 - B. Gun purchases should be limited to one a month.
 - C. Stiff penalties should be enacted for stealing a gun.
 - D. Gun dealers should also be licensed
 1. They should be required to have background checks.
 2. They should pay an annual fee of \$3000 to operate a gun business.
- III. Young children and teens are desensitized to our gun culture.
 - A. In some neighborhoods, many of the children expect to die violently, probably by a gunshot.
 - B. Even though we live in the world's richest, strongest, freest nation, our children do not have the freedom to believe that one day they will be adults.
- IV. People are afraid that everyone else has a gun, so they buy one themselves, for protection.
 - A. Guns in the home are five times more likely to kill a resident of the home than an intruder to the home.
 - B. Having a gun in the home makes the home less safe, not more safe.
- V. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is used to support gun control opponents.
 - A. This Amendment does not guarantee everyone the right to bear arms.
 - B. The Supreme Court has ruled that this Amendment guarantees that states have the right to organize militias.
- VI. The National Rifle Association is one of the richest, most powerful lobbies in the country.
 - A. The NRA asserts that "guns don't kill people; people kill people."
 - B. The NRA claims that gun laws will take guns from law-abiding citizens and leave guns in the hands of criminals.
 1. This is a scare tactic because no legislation has been proposed to take guns from serious hunters.
 2. Anyone who has a handgun in the home is a potential criminal because, if a child gets the gun and hurts or even kills someone, the parent(s) should be held responsible.
- VII. Owning a gun is no longer a necessity for feeding and protecting citizens, and uncontrolled gun sales have led us to even less safety, as a result. Therefore, stricter gun control laws are essential to the development of a society less frustrated by the fear of gun violence.