

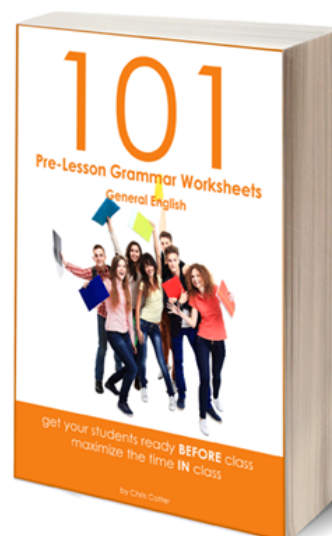
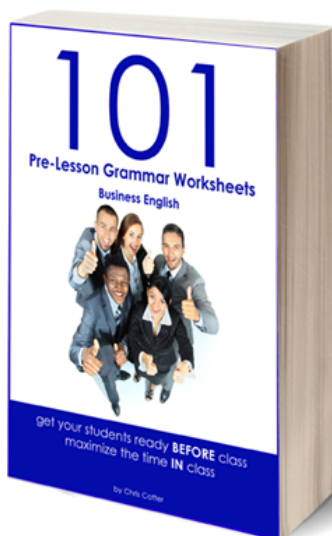
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the ARTICLE (for teachers)

Death Penalty Too Costly

The United States still executes criminals for particularly serious crimes. It remains one of the few first-world nations to do so. For years and years, advocates have stated that the threat of death serves as an effective restraint and lowers the number of serious crimes committed. Opponents have argued the opposite, and believe that eye-for-an-eye justice doesn't work. They claim it's barbaric too. And what's more, opponents have feared that an innocent person may be put to death. They point to DNA evidence, which has freed more than 200 inmates previously on death row in the US, for example. Sloppy investigation is also a problem. Nevertheless, many states may soon get rid of the controversial death penalty because of the cost.

States have begun to examine all sorts of policies because they want to lower budgets and limit layoffs. Inmates sentenced to death row have and use the opportunity to appeal the decision. This bogs down courts and costs taxpayers money. It can take roughly ten to twenty years before the person is put to death. In some states, it takes a lot longer. That means it costs roughly \$4 million per inmate, which is a frighteningly high cost in the current economic situation.

Life in prison without any chance for parole costs ten times less than an execution. That's a lot of money even in more prosperous economic times. But politicians are picking apart budgets and slashing costs to make ends meet. That means finance and not morals may have finally changed the attitude to the death penalty in the US.

Teacher's Notes:

* Underlined words in red typeface are the recommended vocabulary for this lesson.

WARM-UPS

Select one or all of the following warm-up activities.

1: **Define:** What does "execution" mean? Can you use it in a sentence? Can you give examples?

2: **Brainstorm:** Brainstorm with a partner(s) words and ideas associated with "death penalty" for 2 minutes. Spend another 5 minutes or less discussing the words and ideas together.

3: **Title:** Speculate and/or discuss the contents of today's article from its title: "Death Penalty Too Costly."

4: **Speculate:** Write in the missing word for today's article title: "Death Penalty Too ()." Why did you choose this word for the blank?

5: **Do you agree or disagree? Why?**

a.	The death penalty reduces the number of serious crimes.
b.	Executions should be shown on TV. This will reduce the number of serious crimes.
c.	All criminals should be executed.
d.	Only barbaric countries with poor laws have the death penalty.
e.	The death penalty costs a lot of money.

VOCABULARY

Select one of the following vocabulary acquisition activities.

1: Vocabulary match: Individually or in pairs/groups, match the words in column A (from the article) with the best choice in column B.

a.	execute	q.	successful
b.	effective	r.	debatable
c.	barbaric	s.	careless
d.	innocent	t.	make a request
e.	sloppy	u.	savage
f.	controversial	v.	slow
g.	appeal	w.	cut
h.	bog down	x.	put to death
i.	prosperous	y.	rich
j.	slash	z.	not guilty

2: Fill in the Blanks: Fill in the blank with the correct word.

	barbaric	executes	bogs down	sloppy	innocent
	appeal	slashing	controversial	prosperous	effective
a.	The United States still () criminals for particularly serious crimes.				
b.	Advocates have stated that the threat of death serves as an () restraint.				
c.	Opponents claim it's ().				
d.	Opponents have feared that an () person may be put to death.				
e.	() investigation is also a problem.				
f.	Many states may soon get rid of the () death penalty because of the cost.				
g.	Inmates sentenced to death row have and use the opportunity to () the decision.				
h.	This () courts and costs taxpayers money.				
i.	That's a lot of money even in more () economic times.				
j.	politicians are picking apart budgets and () costs to make ends meet.				

3: Define: Define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and/or usage, and offer an example sentence to the class.

a.	execute	c.	barbaric	e.	sloppy	g.	appeal	i.	prosperous
b.	effective	d.	innocent	f.	controversial	h.	bog down	j.	slash

WORD RECOGNITION

1: Word Search: Find the target words (in bold). Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

barbaric	executes	bogs down	sloppy	innocent
appeal	slashing	controversial	prosperous	effective
I G D X S N L L D N G C C Q E N B L C D U A M T D O S O E V N X O E I E O H W N S R N R I O E P G P G F R T U D U T A T C I T P S U O R E P S O R P C E H A U M D O U S S S C O J E N K J Y C V O L R G P C V W F T R D E E E A W L D I O E Q F O U R R D S X P N R D L R U E Z I S H H I O E A N I Q S P Y N A W I Q W U B P F H L I D P L D N V R V R E V V M G A Q P Q G P N A A Y M R L L V L D O S W M C B E X E C U T E S V L S N W O D G O B B I B F Y W S				

2: Target Word Pool: Find the target words (in bold) with their exact match. Time yourself, and see how many words you can find in three minutes. In five minutes. In ten minutes.

barbaric	executes	bogs down	sloppy	innocent
appeal	slashing	controversial	prosperous	effective
effective slasher prosperously uncontroversial barbarically effectiveness repeal sloppily bogging down executed barbarian slashed prosperousness bogs down slops controversial appeal barbarians bog down innocently indecently execution innocence prosperous bogy ineffective unappealing sloppy slashing executives controversy executes slashes prospers propose appealed innocuous controversially innocent barbaric sloppiness barber effectively bogged down ineffectively slash controversies slopes				

Death Penalty Too Costly

Upper-Intermediate

pre- or post-COMPREHENSION

1: Word Association: Brainstorm words associated with today's topic for two minutes. Present to the class.

2: Brainstorm Questions: Brainstorm questions that you would like to ask about today's topic. Answer the questions without looking at the article.

3: True or False?: Guess (before the article) or answer (after the article) whether the sentence is true or false. If false, correct the sentence.

a.	Supporters of the death penalty say that the death penalty is barbaric, but it works.	T / F
b.	More than 200 prisoners have been set free because of DNA evidence.	T / F
c.	States want to reduce costs because of the recession in the US.	T / F
d.	Life in prison is more expensive than the execution.	T / F
e.	Money and not morality may change US policy.	T / F

4: Questions: Answer the questions to check comprehension.

a.	What do supporters of the death penalty say?
b.	What do opponents of the death penalty say?
c.	How much money does it cost to execute a prisoner?
d.	How long is a prisoner usually on death row?
e.	What does the article say about morality?

5: Vocabulary: In pairs/groups, remember how the words were used in today's article.

a.	executes	c.	barbaric	e.	sloppy	g.	appeal	i.	prosperous
b.	effective	d.	innocent	f.	controversial	h.	bogs down	j.	slashing

6: Fragments: Remember how the fragments were used, and complete the sentence from today's article.

a.	Opponents have argued the opposite, and believe that...
b.	Nevertheless, many states may soon get rid of...
c.	Inmates sentenced to death row have and...
d.	That means it costs roughly \$4 million per inmate, which is a...
e.	That means finance and not morals may have...

post-COMPREHENSION

1: Vocabulary: Circle any additional unknown words/phrases in the article. In pairs/groups, use your dictionaries to understand the meanings. Present to the class.

2: Class Questions: Read through the article once more, and write down any questions that you would like to discuss in pairs/groups or as a class. Discuss.

3: Summarize: Work with a partner to summarize the article in your own words.

4: Discuss: Talk about the following questions in pairs/groups. Remember to support your answers!

a.	Did you like this article?
b.	What was your general impression after reading this article?
c.	What do you think about the death penalty? Why?
d.	Can you think of three reasons why supporters think the death penalty works?
e.	What are your opinions on each of the reasons in the previous question? Please explain.
f.	Can you think of three reasons why opponents think the death penalty doesn't work?
g.	What are your opinions on each of the reasons in the previous question? Please explain.
h.	Does your country have the death penalty? Why/not?
i.	How would you feel if executions were shown on TV? Would this reduce serious crimes?
j.	How can serious crimes be reduced? Think of three reasons with a partner.

5: Discuss: Why do people support the death penalty? What are the top five reasons? First brainstorm answers and then decide on effective arguments against these reasons. With another group of students, debate for or against the reasons.

Reason #1:
Reason #2:
Reason #3:
Reason #4:
Reason #5:

6: Google Search: Type "death penalty" into Google news and read additional articles on this topic. Discuss or write an essay about your findings.

STUDENT HANDOUT (the article)

Death Penalty Too Costly

The United States still executes criminals for particularly serious crimes. It remains one of the few first-world nations to do so. For years and years, advocates have stated that the threat of death serves as an effective restraint and lowers the number of serious crimes committed. Opponents have argued the opposite, and believe that eye-for-an-eye justice doesn't work. They claim it's barbaric too. And what's more, opponents have feared that an innocent person may be put to death. They point to DNA evidence, which has freed more than 200 inmates previously on death row in the US, for example. Sloppy investigation is also a problem. Nevertheless, many states may soon get rid of the controversial death penalty because of the cost.

States have begun to examine all sorts of policies because they want to lower budgets and limit layoffs. Inmates sentenced to death row have and use the opportunity to appeal the decision. This bogs down courts and costs taxpayers money. It can take roughly ten to twenty years before the person is put to death. In some states, it takes a lot longer. That means it costs roughly \$4 million per inmate, which is a frighteningly high cost in the current economic situation.

Life in prison without any chance for parole costs ten times less than an execution. That's a lot of money even in more prosperous economic times. But politicians are picking apart budgets and slashing costs to make ends meet. That means finance and not morals may have finally changed the attitude to the death penalty in the US.

Notes:

STUDENT HANDOUT (fill in the blank)

Fill in the blank with the correct word.

execution	controversial	barbaric	appeal	opposite
sloppy	layoffs	prosperous	effective	morals
bogs down	executes	frighteningly	slashing	innocent

Death Penalty Too Costly

The United States still (a. _____) criminals for particularly serious crimes. It remains one of the few first-world nations to do so. For years and years, advocates have stated that the threat of death serves as an (b. _____) restraint and lowers the number of serious crimes committed. Opponents have argued the (c. _____), and believe that eye-for-an-eye justice doesn't work. They claim it's (d. _____) too. And what's more, opponents have feared that an (e. _____) person may be put to death. They point to DNA evidence, which has freed more than 200 inmates previously on death row in the US, for example. (f. _____) investigation is also a problem. Nevertheless, many states may soon get rid of the (g. _____) death penalty because of the cost.

States have begun to examine all sorts of policies because they want to lower budgets and limit (h. _____). Inmates sentenced to death row have and use the opportunity to (i. _____) the decision. This (j. _____) courts and costs taxpayers money. It can take roughly ten to twenty years before the person is put to death. In some states, it takes a lot longer. That means it costs roughly \$4 million per inmate, which is a (k. _____) high cost in the current economic situation.

Life in prison without any chance for parole costs ten times less than an (l. _____). That's a lot of money even in more (m. _____) economic times. But politicians are picking apart budgets and (n. _____) costs to make ends meet. That means finance and not (o. _____) may have finally changed the attitude to the death penalty in the US.

STUDENT HANDOUT (extended listening)

Listen and fill in the missing sentences. Compare your answers with a partner, and then listen once more.

Death Penalty Too Costly

a) _____ . It remains one of the few first-world nations to do so. For years and years, advocates have stated that the threat of death serves as an effective restraint and lowers the number of serious crimes committed. Opponents have argued the opposite, and believe that eye-for-an-eye justice doesn't work. They claim it's barbaric too. And what's more, opponents have feared that an innocent person may be put to death. They point to DNA evidence, which has freed more than 200 inmates previously on death row in the US, for example. Sloppy investigation is also a problem.

Nevertheless, b) _____ .

c) _____ . Inmates sentenced to death row have and use the opportunity to appeal the decision. This bogs down courts and costs taxpayers money. It can take roughly ten to twenty years before the person is put to death. In some states, it takes a lot longer. d) _____ , which is a frighteningly high cost in the current economic situation.

Life in prison without any chance for parole costs ten times less than an execution. That's a lot of money even in more prosperous economic times. e) _____ . That means finance and not morals may have finally changed the attitude to the death penalty in the US.

STUDENT HANDOUT (notes)

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary

1. Vocabulary Match:

a.	x	f.	r
b.	q	g.	t
c.	u	h.	v
d.	z	i.	y
e.	s	j.	w

2. Fill in the Blanks:

a.	executes	f.	controversial
b.	effective	g.	appeal
c.	barbaric	h.	bogs down
d.	innocent	i.	prosperous
e.	sloppy	j.	slashing

pre- or post-Comprehension

1. True or False:

a.	F
b.	T
c.	T
d.	F
e.	T

2. Fragments:

a.	eye-for-an-eye justice doesn't work.
b.	the controversial death penalty because of the cost.
c.	use the opportunity to appeal the decision.
d.	frighteningly high cost in the current economic situation.
e.	finally changed the attitude to the death penalty in the US.

Student Handout

1. Fill in the Blanks

a.	i.
b.	j.
c.	k.
d.	l.
e.	m.
f.	n.
g.	o.
h.	

2. Extended Listening

a.	The United States still executes criminals for particularly serious crimes
b.	many states may soon get rid of the controversial death penalty because of the cost
c.	States have begun to examine all sorts of policies because they want to lower budgets and limit layoffs
d.	That means it costs roughly \$4 million per inmate
e.	But politicians are picking apart budgets and slashing costs to make ends meet