

Debate Outline

DEBATE TOPIC: Modern gun laws are not strict enough.

Introduction Would you enjoy hearing stories of loved ones being harmed as a result of gun violence? I would assume your answer is no. Today I am arguing the contrary argument, that gun laws are not strict enough, based on the fundamentals of safety as well as the second amendment.

- I. **Main Point 1** The safety of the public should be the number one priority when considering gun laws for citizens.
 - A. Firearms, which are “weapons that fire projectiles or bullets using an explosive substance like gunpowder,” (Just Facts, 2020) are accountable for numerous deaths as well as much of the violence that negatively impacts our country.
 1. “It's not only the high-profile mass shootings that we must work to prevent, but also the daily death-by-guns that claim more than 30,000 lives every year” (Prevention Institute).
 2. During 2009-2010, a total of 22,571 firearm homicides and 38,126 firearm suicides occurred among U.S. residents [including] 3,397 firearm homicides and 1,548 firearm suicides among persons aged 10-19 years” (CDC, 2013).
 3. According to the American Journal of Public Health “Legal purchase of a handgun appears to be associated with a long-lasting increased risk of violent death.”
 - B. While it is said that firearms are important for self defense, they are actually more frequently used by criminals.
 1. “In 2017, the FBI reports there were only 298 justifiable homicides involving a private citizen using a firearm [while] there were 10,380 criminal gun homicides” (Violence Policy Center, 2019).
 - C. One example of what is capable of those in possession of a firearm, is highlighted by an event that took place in Florida being among the top ten deadliest mass shootings in US history.
 1. On February 14, 2018, seventeen people--including students and adults—were killed in a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida” (ADL, 2020)

2. This is only one of the thousands of mass shootings that have occurred in our history, however initial gun laws were never intended to allow this level of freedom with these dangerous firearms.
- II. **Main Point 2** 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.”
- A. The founding fathers founded the bill of rights on the basis of supporting our nation’s military force.
 1. According to Noah Shusterman who wrote for the Washington Post in 2018, “Before the landmark 2008 Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. Heller*, courts had ruled that the right of individual citizens to bear arms existed only within the context of participation in the militia.”
 2. Therefore, modern day interpretation of this amendment does not support its initial intent.
 - B. In 2016 the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals came to an astonishing decision by seven to four.
 1. According to Judge William Fletcher, "The right of a member of the general public to carry a concealed firearm in public is not, and never has been, protected by the Second Amendment.”
 2. This refutes many currently held beliefs among firearm rights.

Questions for opposing argument

- I. Would you like to see any changes or added regulations with current gun laws?
- II. Do you believe there is a more effective way of ensuring one’s own safety?

Conclusion

Current laws regarding the use of firearms provide too much freedom for those who intended to be in possession, and leads to more harm than good. Looking back on key events from our history, firearms have been used in countless homicides, suicides, and mass shootings. They are ultimately used by more criminals or by people who intend to inflict harm on themselves or others, than by citizens trying to protect themselves. In addition, when looking into where gun laws stemmed from back when the amendments were created, it states a purpose that was not intended for the same uses as it is today. The second amendment was in fact created for military purposes, rather than use of the masses for various reasons beyond military use. Therefore, modern day gun laws have been interpreted differently than its initial intent and should be restricted for protection of public safety.

Reference List

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Notes

- I. Affirmative Case
 - A. Modern guns laws should not be restricted.
 - B. Gun laws are in place to allow citizens to protect themselves when options such as law enforcement aren't available.
- II. Negative Cross Examination
 - A. Q: Would you like to see any changes or added regulations with current gun laws?
 - B. A: She would like to see gun laws become more flexible.
 - C. Q: Do you believe there is a more effective way of ensuring one's own safety?
 - D. A: At the moment no, due to all the high levels of crime.
- III. Negative Case
 - A. Far more harm comes from guns, than good. The Amendment was founded on different ideals than what is said today.
- IV. Affirmative Cross Examination
 - A. Q: How do limitations on guns in other countries compare to the US?
 - B. A: There is no other country that has as many guns as the US, all which appear to have lower crime rates.
 - C. Q: What is the view on gun control from the general public?
 - D. A: As more mass shootings occur as well as other violence associated with firearms, there continues to be an increase in support to restrict gun use from the general public.
- V. Negative Conclusion
 - A. Today, with all the violence going on, it is not currently an option to live without guns as a means of protection, which is all citizens want, to be able to live without fear.
- VI. Affirmative Conclusion
 - A. The amendment was founded on different ideals and has been interpreted in a different way than initially intended. Restrictions on gun laws would lead to more safety amongst the public.