

# Project 3

## Evaluation 33

### American Government 2: National Level

SSTH 038 059



Be sure to include ALL pages of this project (including the directions and the assignment) when you send the project to your teacher for grading. Don't forget to put your name and I.D. number at the top of this page!

This project is worth 100 points. It will count for 12% of your overall grade for this course. Be sure to read all the instructions and assemble all the necessary materials before you begin.

## Capital Punishment

You know that the Bill of Rights protects the rights of accused individuals, and that the 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment. Capital punishment has been a controversial issue for many years, but the Supreme Court has ruled that in some instances it does not count as cruel or unusual. In this project, you will express your own opinion about capital punishment.

Write a **900-word** (three typed, double-spaced pages) essay in which you:

- Provide an overview of the capital punishment issue in the United States.
- Discuss a Supreme Court decision about capital punishment and analyze what it says about the issue.
- Consider at least two arguments in favor of capital punishment.
- Evaluate at least two arguments against capital punishment.
- Express and defend your own opinion about capital punishment.
- Use at least **three sources** other than your course materials.

Some sources that may be helpful are:

- <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=18>
- <http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/>
- <http://www.supremecourt.gov/>
- [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org)

Because you will be using sources other than your textbook, you will need to include a list of references with your project. Refer to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, which may be accessed online or in many libraries.

A grading rubric is provided.

**Complete your project in the space provided at the end of this project assignment document (scroll down).**

**To submit the project, save this project assignment document. Use the course number, your name, and the project number in your file's title:**

**SSTH038059\_ABStudent\_Project3.doc**

**Go to your course management system to upload your project file.**

### GRADING RUBRIC FOR PROJECT 3

Category	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
<b>Provide an overview of the capital punishment issue in the United States. (15 points)</b>	Student summarizes the history of capital punishment in the United States, noting the types of cases in which it is typically used. Student will also discuss the roles of the states in administering capital punishment.	Student provides a clear, concise summary of capital punishment in the United States but it is not as detailed as an excellent answer.	Student provides a general summary of capital punishment in the United States.	Student provides little background information about capital punishment.
<b>Discuss a Supreme Court decision about capital punishment and analyze what it says about the issue. (20 points)</b>	Student discusses a capital punishment case, noting the issues involved, the Supreme Court's decision, and the precedent the case set. The reasoning in the majority opinion is analyzed.	Student explains the Supreme Court's ruling in a capital punishment case and notes the precedent it set, but the student does not provide much analysis of the reasoning in the majority opinion.	Student identifies a Supreme Court case involving capital punishment and notes the precedent set by the case, but discussion is general.	Student notes a Supreme Court case involving capital punishment but shows little understanding of the case or the precedent it set.
<b>Consider at least two arguments in favor of capital punishment. (15 points)</b>	Student clearly explains at least two logical arguments in favor of capital punishment, and at least one of them uses data / statistics about criminal behavior.	Student clearly explains two logical arguments in favor of capital punishment but makes little use of data.	Student summarizes two arguments in favor of capital punishment but describes them in general terms.	Student does not note two arguments in favor of capital punishment or arguments are illogical.

<p><b>Evaluate at least two arguments against capital punishment. (15 points)</b></p>	<p>Student clearly explains at least two logical arguments against capital punishment, and at least one of them uses data / statistics about criminal behavior.</p>	<p>Student clearly explains two logical arguments against capital punishment but makes little use of data.</p>	<p>Student summarizes two arguments against capital punishment but describes them in general terms.</p>	<p>Student does not note two arguments against capital punishment or arguments are illogical.</p>
<p><b>Express and defend your own opinion about capital punishment. (20 points)</b></p>	<p>Student expresses a clear personal argument that follows logically from information presented. Student also addresses the opposing argument and makes a logical argument about why the opposing argument is wrong.</p>	<p>Student expresses a clear personal argument that follows logically from information presented, but does not address the opposing argument.</p>	<p>Student makes a general statement about whether s/he supports or opposes capital punishment.</p>	<p>Student does not make a clear statement about whether s/he supports or opposes capital punishment.</p>
<p><b>Use at least three sources other than your course materials. (15 points)</b></p>	<p>Three scholarly sources (books, newspapers, journal articles, websites) are used, and evidence from the sources is used to show arguments for and against capital punishment. The student's personal opinion is supported by evidence from the sources. Sources are cited properly in APA style, and a bibliography is included.</p>	<p>Three scholarly sources (books, newspapers, journal articles, websites) are used. Paper is based on information from these sources, but not as many details are used as in an excellent answer. Sources are cited properly in APA style, and a bibliography is included.</p>	<p>Three scholarly sources (books, newspapers, journal articles, websites) are used, but information is general and not very detailed. Or, only two scholarly sources are used. Sources are cited properly in APA style, and a bibliography is included.</p>	<p>Only one or no outside sources are used, or sources aren't cited.</p>

[Begin essay here]