

Thesis Statement Choices

1. Take a position on the issue of The Right to Die as it relates to individual rights and the common good. Should physicians be required by law to help terminally ill patients who have a strong desire to end their lives? Is physician assisted suicide ethical? How is terminally ill defined?

Thesis: I believe that The Right To Die is/is not ethical because _____, _____, _____.

- **Everyone is guaranteed civil rights under the 14th Amendment**
- **Competent people should have the right to choose death**
- **Physician assisted suicide is a compassionate response to unbearable suffering**
- **Many people feel taking of a life is morally wrong**
- **Burdened family members may abuse the right to death by encouraging the option over life**
- **Physicians pledge to not harm patients (Hippocratic Oath)**
- **Physicians may make mistakes in terminal diagnoses**
- **Many laws include safeguards such as waiting periods, family notification, and in put from multiple physicians**

2. This thesis statement takes the position that the Indian Removal Act violated numerous principles of the Constitution. For a call to action think about how the Indian Removal Act relates to current events such as private property rights. How? Why?.....

Thesis: The Indian Removal Act of 1830 violated the United States Constitution because _____, _____, _____.

- **Indians were forcibly removed from their lands (John Ross & Principles of the Constitution # 7 - Individual Rights and Amendment s 4, 5& 9)**
- **Andrew Jackson did not uphold the Supreme Court's decision (federal government versus state government) (Federalism, Article 3, Sections 1&2)**
- **Individual economic interests (great farm land, and found gold on land) versus Indian rights (Article 3, Sections 1&2, Amendment 5)**

3. Which aspect of the first amendment to the Constitution is important to you and your community? Include one aspect of the first amendment and use research to state how it relates to one democratic ideal and one constitutional principle. (Freedoms of speech, press, and religion)

Thesis: I believe that the freedoms of speech, press, and religion are the most important rights of Americans because _____, _____, _____.

4. Take a position on the issue of the death penalty as it relates to one democratic ideal and one constitutional principle. Is the death penalty cruel and unusual punishment? Should the death penalty be legal in the United States?

Thesis: I believe that the death penalty is/is not appropriate punishment in the United States because _____, _____, _____.

- **Victims' rights (see Amendments 8 and 9)**
- **Expense to state**
- **Deterring(discouraging) criminals**
- **Cruel and unusual punishment**
- **Disrespect for human life**

5. Take a position on the issue of gun control as it relates to one democratic ideal and one constitutional principle. Was it the intention of the Second Amendment to give all citizens the right to own any type of weapon? Do gun control laws prevent crime?

Thesis: I believe that gun control is/is not necessary in the United States because _____,
_____.

- **Increase or reduction of deaths from guns –(compare/contrast to other countries)**
- **Accidental deaths**
- **Sports and Recreation**
- **Effective means of self-defense**
- **Amendment 2- Right to Bear Arms**

6. Take a position on the issue of corporal punishment as it relates to one democratic ideal and one constitutional principle. Should the Constitution have an amendment banning corporal punishment nationwide? How are students and schools impacted by corporal punishment?

Thesis: I believe that corporal punishment is/is not appropriate to use because _____,
_____.

- **Cruel and unusual punishment**
- **Fear in school/home**
- **Does/Does not change behavior**
- **Use in judicial, domestic, or school environments**

7. Take a position on the issue of search and seizure as it relates to one democratic ideal and one constitutional principle. Should teachers, principals, and other school staff members be allowed to search a student's belongings without his/her permission? Should police be allowed to search homes, cars, and other private property without authorization?

Thesis: I believe that search and seizure is/is not ethical because _____,
_____.

- **Everyone is guaranteed privacy (Amendment 4)**
- **Probable cause – criteria**
- **Search warrants needed before a search takes place**
- **Use of computers and personal privacy in school and workplace**

8. There are several social issues catching national attention today, many of which were voted on in various states this past November. These are sensitive issues, balancing the ideals of common good and individual rights. Choose a social issue and determine whether or not it falls under an individual's rights or should it be voted on by the state for the common good. You may want to include references to the 1st, 4th, 9th, 10th, and 14th Amendments, as well as the Preamble and other aspects of the Constitution.

Thesis: The issue of _____ should/should not be protected as an individual right because (of) _____, _____, and _____.

Possible issues:

- **Smoking in Public**
- **Gay Marriage**
- **Parental Adoption Rights**
- **Medicinal Marijuana**
- **Public Surveillance**
- **Choose your own issue for teacher approval**