

Student Activity 5

Examples of Writing in Response to Discussion Starters

Teachers: Please note, the first example presupposes a higher level of prior student knowledge than the second example.

**EXAMPLE OF WRITING IN RESPONSE
TO DISCUSSION STARTER**

Discussion Starter:

The death penalty in the United States is administered fairly.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Why or why not?

Example:

I believe that the death penalty is not administered fairly in the United States today. I have read a lot about how the judicial system fails to protect, and fails to set forth guidelines to those who are prosecuting and to those who are defending people in death penalty cases. The system does not yet seem to be clean; it seems rather corrupt. Prosecuting attorneys have a lot of discretion to decide when and when not to seek the death penalty against someone. Something must be done to reinstate the original intent of the death penalty, which is not to pick and choose who you want to be executed due to race or gender, but instead to punish the guilty. Bifurcated trials are a minimal effort, but a good start.

Joan W. DeKalb High School

**EXAMPLE OF WRITING IN RESPONSE
TO DISCUSSION STARTER**

Discussion Starter:

The death penalty should be abolished.

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Why or why not?

Example:

I live in Tennessee and I feel that the death penalty needs to be abolished. I think that no one deserves to die and this is how I interpret the Eighth Amendment. No one deserves to die especially since 16 out of every 88 persons executed are found innocent. There no go good ways of executing anyone, but firing squads are totally uncalled for. This ie very unnecessary, and I strongly wish it would be abolished.

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