

Audience & Purpose

1. Our goal is to change readers' minds and call them to action to enact that change.
2. My audience would be the N.R.A., hunters, assault weapon wholesalers, constitutional activists, specifically those citizens who refuse to entertain the regulation of amendments.
3. My audience will find safety, protection, the U.S. constitution, and freedom important.
4. My opponents believe the constitution is clear about 2nd amendment rights and that guns should not be banned.

Formal Outline

Thesis Statement: The production, sale, and possession of assault weapons for private citizens should be banned in the U.S.

Supporting Claim #1: Keeping assault weapons out of private citizens' hands can lower the increasing occurrences of barbaric public slayings.

- o July 2011 law firm murders
- o Columbine School Shootings
- o University of Virginia incident
- o How did these individuals gain access to weapons?

Supporting Claim #2: The ban on assault weapons is backed heavily by public opinion, major organizations, and even law enforcement.

- o 12% favor ban (Times-Picayune)
- o Organizational endorsements
- o National Sheriff's Assoc. / international Assoc. of Police Chiefs

Supporting Claim #3: The monetary and human costs incurred by crimes committed with assault weapons are too great to ignore.

- o 10,561 murders in 2016 by handguns

- o Study of 131 injured patients' medical expenses paid by public funds

Counter Argument #1

Opposition's Claim: Strict gun control laws won't affect crime rate.

Refutation/Concession: Low murder rate in Britain, Australia, etc. where strict controls are enforced.

Counter Argument #2

Opposition's Claim: Outlaws would still own guns.

Refutation/Concession: Any effort to move the trend in opposite direction would benefit future generations.