

Constitutional Debate Revision 101

Quality Control Check

Voice

- Is the voice appropriate for the topic and audience?
- Does the speech have a persuasive effect?
 - Do not use I, you, me, we, us (except in quotes or at the call to action)

Color code the info in your speech as you go through this revision guide.

- **INTRO:** Underline the thesis and list of subtopics in **blue**.
- **CONCLUSION:** Underline the restated thesis and subtopics in **blue**.
- **BODY:** Underline all topic sentences in **green**.
- Underline Quote Set-up in **orange**.
- Underline all quotes or paraphrases in **red**.
- Underline all citations (article title or author) in **blue**.
- Underline all analyses or explanations in **yellow**.
- Underline all paragraph conclusions sentences in **green**.
- Circle all transitions, analysis set-up phrases, and quote set-up phrases (p.9) in **brown**.
- Circle all subtopic terms (Constitution, specific democratic ideals and/or Constitutional principles (see glossary), stakeholders ____ - fill in the blank with specific group affected) in **orange**.

Background Info (Con 1 Only)

- Does your section on background information cover the following:
 - What is the issue?
 - Who is involved in the issue (stakeholders)?
 - Why is this issue important?

Call to Action (Con 2 Only)

Yes

- Citizens have a right to bear arms without the restrictions that congress is trying to impose. You can raise support to protect our individual right to bear arms by writing your congressman and raising awareness in our own community of the potential for losing this freedom.

No

- Vote to end gun control.
- Citizens have a right to bear arms.
 - Do you call people to act by demanding change of the law or do you encourage authorities to maintain status quo?
 - Does this "call to action" give specific action steps the audience can do for change or maintaining status quo?

Subtopics and Thesis

Yes

- Option 1: It is acceptable for citizens to own a gun because it is supported by the Second Amendment of the Constitution, America's democratic ideals and constitutional principles, and stakeholder interests.
- Option 2: Gun ownership is supported by the Constitution, democratic ideals and constitutional principles, and stakeholders. Gun control restrictions need to be lifted because they violate the Second Amendment.

No

- Should individuals have the choice to own a gun?
- Gun ownership is good.

Remember you two options:

- combining your subtopics into the thesis
- stating the subtopics individually and then ending with a concise position statement on the issue.

Conclusion Restatement of Thesis

Yes

No

- Restated Thesis: It is necessary and beneficial for citizens to own a gun because it is bolstered by the Second Amendment of the Constitution, America's democratic ideals and constitutional principles, and stakeholder interests.
 - Original: It is acceptable for citizens to own a gun because it is supported by the Second Amendment of the Constitution, America's democratic ideals and constitutional principles, and stakeholder interests.
 - Should individuals have the choice to own a gun?
 - Gun ownership is good.
- Remember you two options:
- combining your subtopics into the thesis
 - stating the subtopics individually and then ending with a concise position statement on the issue.

Check the type of quotes

- Look at your quotes throughout the entire paper.
 - Do you have at least one court case (you've identified the title of the court case)?
 - Do you have at least one statistic (a number based quote)?
 - Do you have at least one example (a situation that identifies the impact/benefit of the issue)?
 - If you answered NO to any of these questions, figure out which quote(s) would be best to replace. Label in the margin "find replacement" and "CC," "S," or "E."

Constitution Topic Sentence

Yes

No

- To begin the Second Amendment of the Constitution supports allowing individuals the right to gun ownership in the United States.
- The nation was founded on the Constitution and it should be followed today.

- Does this clearly connect the subtopic (constitutional citations) to the thesis/position of the paper (individual right to own a gun)?
- Transitional phrase?

Constitution Quote Set-Up

Yes

No

- The language of the Second Amendment says "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."
- Nothing between topic sentence and the quote.

- Do I identify the specific part of the constitution that my expert will reference in the quote?

Constitution Quote

Yes

No

- As stated by Utah Senator Orrin Hatch, "The 'right to bear firearms' helps individuals, their personal safety, the welfare of the families, and the integrity of their homes."
- The Second Amendment proclaims, "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."

- Is my quote from an expert (judge, lawmaker, or lawyer) who is interpreting the meaning of the amendment?
- Did I use a quote verb phrase?

Constitution Analysis

Yes

No

- This proves that the founding fathers intended for the Second Amendment to allow individuals the opportunity to protect themselves and their household. Families and houses still need to be protected in the 21st Century.
- Firearms are helpful for self-defense so we should not have gun control.

- Does this explain the connection between my quote and thesis and more specifically, the constitutional citation?
- Did I use an analysis verb phrase?

Constitution Conclusion

YesNo

- **In summary**, the Second Amendment supports reducing restrictions on ownership so individuals are free to possess guns.
- Gun ownership is helpful because of democratic ideals.

- Does this conclusion clearly bring it back to the generic topic sentence at the start of the paragraph?
- Did I use a summarizing transition?

Democratic Ideal Topic Sentence

YesNo

- **Equally important** are the numerous democratic ideals and constitutional principles that oppose gun control.
- How would life be if every corner you turned you would find a world full of people who are dangerous people and you without your gun?

- Note: If you only cover democratic ideals in your support, then delete the "constitutional principles" portion of the topic sentence.

- Does this tell you about democratic ideals that support individual gun ownership?
- Does this establish a position (restate your thesis)?
- Transitional phrase to emphasize new point?

Democratic Ideal Quote Set-Up

YesNo

- One of the democratic ideals that opposes gun control laws is that of life. Gun owners want access to guns for self-defense and the protection of their own lives mostly because they fear their death if they find themselves unprotected.
- Nothing between topic sentence and the quote.
- One of the democratic ideals that opposes gun control laws is that of life.

- Do I identify a democratic ideal?
- Do I define the meaning/value of the democratic ideal in the context of the topic?

– Note: 2nd quote set-up needs a transitional phrase

Democratic Ideal Quote

YesNo

- **According to the article "Guns and Crime", "In 1982, the town of Kennesaw, Georgia passed an ordinance that required every home to have a gun. In the seven months that passed, there were 40 less burglaries than in the previous seven months."**
- George Detweiler states, "The absurdity of this interpretation is discovered by considering the meaning of the term "right." "In 1982, the town of Kennesaw, Georgia passed an ordinance that required every home to have a gun."

- Will my selected quote connect the identified democratic ideal (life)?
- Did I use a quote verb phrase?

Democratic Ideal Analysis

YesNo

- **This illustrates** that burglaries are a concern that can be significantly reduced, if not stopped, by a citizen in possession of a gun. Burglaries are instances when individuals need to not only protect property but more importantly, their own lives.
- Guns make people safe by reducing crime.

- Does my analysis mention the specific democratic ideal (life) and explain the meaning of the democratic ideal in the context of the quote?
- Did I use an analysis verb phrase?

Democratic Ideal Conclusion

YesNo

- **In short**, the American democratic ideal of life and the constitutional principle of federalism prove that gun ownership should be an individual choice.
- Now, don't you think people should own guns?

- Does this conclusion clearly bring it back to the generic topic sentence?
- Does it include a summarizing transitional phrase?

– Note: If you only cover democratic ideals in your support, then delete the "constitutional principles" portion of the conclusion sentence.

Stakeholder Topic Sentence

Yes **No**

- Furthermore, stakeholders value gun ownership because not only does gun ownership benefit the individual, but the common good too.

OR (if you only express ind. right)

Furthermore, stakeholders value gun ownership because gun ownership promotes the individual rights of people.
- Gun control is unacceptable because people don't like to be told what to do.

 - Does this tell you that stakeholders support individual gun ownership?
 - Does this establish a position/restate your thesis?
 - Transitional phrase to emphasize new point?

Stakeholder Quote Set-Up

Yes **No**

- Most gun control advocates say that guns are rarely used for self-defense. However, the general community group as a stakeholder benefits from possession of guns.

Individual gun ownership helps stakeholders.

 - Do I identify a specific stakeholder group (community, parents, teachers, students, victims, etc)?
 - Do I communicate the stakeholders reason (either it benefits the common good or promotes individual right)?
- Note: 2nd quote set-up needs a transitional phrase

Stakeholder Quote

Yes **No**

- The Bureau of Justice Statistics states, "an estimate of about 1.1 million violent crimes were committed with guns in 1992, that is dwarfed by the estimate of up to 2.49 million defensive uses."

OR

"an estimate of about 1.1 million violent crimes were committed with guns in 1992."

OR

"Gun control as a whole has not worked to reduce violent crime rates in this country."
- Did I use a quote that shows the interest or benefit of the stakeholder?
 - Did I use a quote verb phrase?

Stakeholder Analysis

Yes **No**

- This demonstrates a clear benefit to the common good of a community because the number of defensive uses of a firearm more than double the number of crimes committed with guns, providing better protection for the community.

Defensive use of weapons helps stakeholders.

 - Does my analysis mention the specific stakeholder and explain the benefit that is identified in the quote?
 - Did I use an analysis verb phrase?

Stakeholder Conclusion

Yes **No**

- Consequently, it is in the best interest of stakeholders for individuals to freely own guns because it is an individual right and it serves the common good of the community.

OR

Consequently, it is in the best interest of stakeholders for individuals to freely own guns because it is an individual right
- Now, don't you think people should own guns?

 - Does this conclusion clearly bring it back to the generic topic sentence?
 - Does it include a summarizing transitional phrase?