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Writing Sample

### Make America Safe Again

Violent gun shootings occur every day in the United States. Many citizens feel as if there is no way to help end these acts except comforting the victim's families. If we come together as a community, we learn the ways of preventing gun violence and end its harms. Finding a solution to our country's gun violence pandemic should be prioritized among the United State's problems. An appropriate solution is not as far as one would think. Gun laws in the United States should be regulated by stricter rules.

Citizens of America are already attempting to demonstrate the positive effects of tighter gun policies. In some states like Colorado, owners organized a collaboration between gun shops and public health leaders in the state to help prevent suicide (Editorial Board). Colorado has ranked seven of fifty in the list of states with the most suicide deaths. Statistics show that about half of people commit using firearms and that the majority of the ones that survive say they regret their decision. The roll call for the group is surprisingly diverse because the group was solely formed to bring awareness towards guns and suicide. The project for the branch in Colorado is named the Colorado Gun Shop Project. Dick Abramson, a gun shop owner, allows his employees dictate which people they can refuse guns to. If the customer shows signs of suicidal thoughts, they leave empty handed and without a self-harm method. In the year of 2014 alone, 500 Colorado natives took their lives with guns and the Colorado Gun Shop Project is working to change that number positively (Lichtblau).

In some conservative states, the Legislature may give bias towards some groups compared to others. At the University of Texas, professors have to reserve parts their lessons and students are hindered in fear of guns. The concealed weapon policy allegedly makes teaching and learning alike feel uncomfortable in the classroom and they have retaliated in a few protests in response. Ms. Lopez, a student of the Pre-med program, is afraid that pupils like herself will be fearful of stating their true opinions in class because they are aware of loaded arms in the lecture halls. She believes that because of the fact her school is liberal, it is the reason the Legislature is so against them. It is widely argued that teachers and students should be permitted their own say instead of the Legislature because it is not the Legislature living on campus.

Lawmakers could reap the benefits from acknowledging the first amendment as well as the second one while enforcing. Professor Lisa Moore wants her students to know that guns in her class are not allowed, but she is not legally able to prohibit and enforce the rule. She says she wants “students getting their mind blown to remain a metaphor.” Her and another instructor at the institution both sued the state and university for violating the rights of the first and second amendment. As her kids publicly weep in class from the controversy of the issue, she has to remain teaching gay and lesbian studies as a lesbian with the existence of firearms staying in her office. Pupils mentioned being uncomfortable because there was a lingering possibility of a gun being in the classroom, but have not guns always possibly been present there before this? Some groups on campus are welcoming the on campus rules with open arms (Cook). Many left-sided

members believe that firearm holders only carry their arms for a psychological reassurance.

It is not surprising to hear that foreign terrorists is America's worst fear after what happened in 9/11. There are loopholes in the system and threats that do not appear to have an immediate effect. One of the biggest problems is illegal gun trade. Since June 2016, the events that unfolded because of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting, also known as the worst mass shooting in US history, have marred the daily lives of the victims forever. They react to the faintest noises resembling the horrifying night and the one that they will remember the most are the sounds of the bullet shells falling from Omar Mateen's Sig Sauer MCX rifle. High capacity mags have no place in our everyday society and will hopefully never have a reason to. What is the reason for permits if they aren't even background checked at gun shows with private vendors?

The jurisdiction of underground gun trade will be a challenge to face, but it would also give us permanent relief. The danger of lenient background checks gives criminals the means to obtain firearms while the law is not looking. Syed Rizwan Farook and Tashfeen Malik took the lives of 14 and injured 22 people with their dual pistols and two military-grade guns. They acquired the artillery by Enrique Marquez Jr., their next door neighbor, making a "straw purchase." A straw purchase occurs when a person purchases a gun under the oath to only use it for himself, but really acts on behalf of another (Cook). This is not only the case in San Bernardino attack, but also the Aurora and the Charleston church shootings. Everyday criminal assaults kill 30 people and wound 170. The guns used for these illegal acts were most likely not bought in the most lawful

fashion. Sixty percent of American gun owners bought their firearms from gun stores while the other forty percent received theirs as gifts. People are barred from getting these weapons for good reason. Some deal with heavy criminal records, young age, mental illness, and illegal alien status. Alternatively, they could fail the background check or not have the license requirement for the state (Cook). Ninety percent of inmates acquired their guns from other sources than the just (gift or exchange). Chicago gangs have an average gun age of more than eleven years old. If a gang member usually associates himself with people who handle guns then taking them is relatively easy. The only way to prevent more violent gun crimes is to control the underground circulation. As of right now, there is not much that law enforcement can do towards the group willingly providing guns to offenders.

Correcting the flaws mentioned before are simpler than a person would think. Yet, the tensions formed on opposing sides may stop plans from happening because there are more violent threats to our citizens happening everyday. President Obama even went so far to say that "our thoughts and prayers are not enough (Office of the Press Secretary)." Activists are aiming to hunt the stocks of companies providing convenient weapon purchases to attackers. Walmart took high-grade semi automatics off their shelves in hope that one of their valued customers do not involve themselves in a mass shooting. If the American Legislature passed out a ban on guns with high capacity magazines, it will be able to change the way we perceive gun violence forever (Editorial Board). This result may grow exponentially after one hundred percent of the cylinders in the country are out of stock. Another repair could be made by not absolutely abolishing the gun policy, we

should but remaking it from the bare bones. Before enforcing anything, we should educate and dictate to the people what the use of a concealed firearm really is for. Gun safety is at the top of the list because owners should, at least, train annually with a test and be taught how to use the weapon correctly before they accidentally hurt others instead of protecting. They should only be allowed to be used for military purposes and on safe shooting ranges.

Several sources have reported that gun control would be beneficial in many areas and to many people. Recent polls regarding the enhancement of background checks for firearms have been predicted to be immensely favored by voters. The largest not-so-secret rumor known about this area is that certain seats in Congress change their personal opinion in respect to gun lobbyist (Philipps). The states of Maine, Nevada, Washington and California have made the decision to bypass the politicians and allow citizens to participate in the ballot for themselves.

The success of same-sex marriage throughout the States has inspired them to band together after the failure of Congress passing an act after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Washington State has laboriously supported the approval of more extensive background checks after what happened that day. Both Nevada and Maine has requested that voters close the loophole of gun sales without vetting. The State of California will also enforce a raft of laws “including background checks for ammunition purchases and a system for confiscating guns from felons who are prohibited from owning them (Lichtblau).” This statement proves that gun control advocates the message that “stronger firearm laws can reduce gun violence” and the National Rifle Association’s

rebuttal is incorrect. With congress in a stalemate (one that even resulted in a democratic sit in), it has turned partial responsibility to gun-right activists and they have successfully achieved ballot initiatives and legislative races in the past few years. A report from the Center for American Progress could link homicide rates and safety laws in some states (Cook). The group with more lenient laws tended to have a higher rate of gun violence.

Regardless of the ties that divide our country, it is crucial for the country to come to an ultimatum. The importance of our rights is a topic that has been discussed for centuries and communities are currently trying their best at healing themselves by helping others prevent dangerous occurrences from happening like their own. Ending gun violence will be a huge step towards retaining peace in our country. Guns laws may potentially put public spaces in the U.S. safer and create better environments for our future generations to occupy. When laws, such as this one, are declared unconstitutional or amended, the United States of America definitely has a greater chance in transforming for the better.

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