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ENG1101

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Introduction:

Modern America is now facing another major issue that has separated the people's opinion on how America should be. Guns have been a part of America since the birth of the nation. Guns have played a huge role in many Americans lives, it's a part of American culture and many have called to get rid of Guns and place restrictions on how to acquire one. Both major parties in American politics have used this issue to fuel their campaign and gain supporters. It has been the most talked topic beside Racism because there have been more school shootings these past years. This led me to wondering why this issue has become bigger and controversial throughout the years. My research is to understand the impact Guns have on America and a way to find a solution that both sides can agree on.

Citation #1: Worsnop, Richard L. "Gun Control." *CQ Researcher*, 10 June 1994, pp. 505-28, library.cqpress.com/cqresearcher/cqresrre1994061000.

Summary: The article talks about how bills were passed to ban certain guns and have a more secure background check when trying to acquire one. It also has studies from professors who

give their opinions on the bills and how it affects the numbers of crime committed with guns. One of the professors gives his data and opinion on these gun control laws and it shows that many of these gun owners acquire guns due to their dangerous environment. The professor believes that banning automatic weapons was an useless law due to the fact that many owners use regular guns such as pistols instead of automatics. His data shows that instead of banning guns.

Reflection:

I agree with the professor that many gun owners are people who live in dangerous areas and these laws don't help with the real issue these communities are facing but more guns doesn't also solve the problems. When seeing the data, it really shows that banning certain guns don't actually help because most of the guns being banned are rarely used in gun violence. They also talk about how people are not being responsible with their guns.

Quotation

“To resolve the issue, Arthur L. Kellerman, a physician at the University of Tennessee, and nine associates conducted a study on “Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home.” Published last fall in the respected New England Journal of Medicine, it concluded that “A gun kept in the home is far more likely to be involved in the death of a member of the household than it is to be used to kill in self-defense.”

Citation #2:

Gross, Dan. "Why Gun Violence Can't Be Our New Normal | Dan Gross." *YouTube*, YouTube, 20 Apr. 2016, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G8gJJuCdP_A.

Summary: This video shows that Gross is very supportive of more Gun control because of his personal story. He also talks about how the NRA downplays the numbers they use as evidence and how they prevent ways to improve safety on guns. He also talks about how many celebrities are speaking out on these issues such as Kim Kardians which shows how big this issue is and his main point that many people support more gun control.

Reflection: I agree with him that there shouldn't be gun shows without background checks and that there should be more background checks but I disagree with him that people feel safer with a gun because it's been shown that a lot of owners are irresponsible. I also feel that his evidence may be somewhat wrong because it is hard to believe that many Republicans agree with Democrats especially in this day and age.

Quotation:

"90 percent of Americans support expanding Brady background checks to all gun owners. Including 90 percent of Republicans, more than 80 percent of gun owners, more than 70 percent of NRA members."

Citation 3: Schaeffer, Katherine. "Key Facts about Americans and Guns." *Pew Research Center*, Pew Research Center, 13 Sept. 2021, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2021/09/13/key-facts-about-americans-and-guns/>.

Summary; This article shows data that different types of people view gun control differently and both parties have different views on certain restrictions but have some of the same views as each other such as preventing mentally ill people from having guns. It also shows that people use their political views when determining their opinion on Gun control.

Reflection: One of the data that stood out to me was the view on gun violence by ethnicity. It showed that Black Americans believed gun violence is a major problem while not even half of white Americans believe it's a major problem. Many people also use guns to protect themselves or to hunt, but there were people who didn't want to disclose why they own a gun which I found weird.

Quotation:

“About eight-in-ten Black adults (82%) say gun violence is a very big problem – by far the largest share of any racial or ethnic group. By comparison, about six-in-ten Hispanic adults (58%) and 39% of White adults view gun violence this way.”

Conclusion: In my research, I found that many people who live in urban areas support stricter gun control and that people who own guns mainly use it for protection or hunting. I also found that laws won't always be the perfect solution and having more guns won't solve the problem that America is facing with guns. While gun violence may decrease due to better laws, the government still needs to improve on making guns safer to use and prevent people from using guns irresponsibly. After reading all my research, there might not be a perfect solution to gun control or gun violence but that doesn't mean we can't improve on certain areas such as making

sure that guns are going to people who are responsible and at least have a better background check on people.