

TOWER DIAGRAM

SUBTOPIC SEQUENCE P.O.V. TENSE
 Linking 3 Present

Name: _____
 Date: _____

CLAIM: Coal burning should not be used as an energy source

- INTRODUCTORY OPTION: Definition of coal [3]
 coal [3]
- INTRODUCTORY DETAILS:
 1 History of coal in US [1]
 2 Importance of coal [3]
 3 Declining industry [10]

SUBTOPICS

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------|---------|
| 1 | Environmental Effects | Reason | Linking |
| | Linking | | |
| | Health effects | Reason | Linking |
| | Linking | | |

UNEA: [6]
 1 Major human cause to [6]
 [2] 4 ~~USA~~ coal remain in ground [8]
 [2] 2 Exemptions to laws present [8]
 [2] 3 coal plants emit 2000 lbs of CO₂ [8]

Counterarguments

| | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------|---------|
| 3 | Necessity for coal | Reason | Linking |
| | Linking | | |

1 Too early for full transition [4]
 2 Science isn't sure [7]
 3 Strong Republican resistance [5]
 4 Appal. economy will fail [6]
 5 Provides most of American electricity [5]

- CONCLUDING DETAILS:
- 1 Humanity should move to renewables
 - 2 Coal harming env. & health
 - 3 Economic transition will be good
 - 4 Save the planet for posterity

THESIS STATEMENT:
 Because of its negative effects on our environment & public health and despite overwhelming arguments in favor of expanding coal production, coal mining should not be part of American energy production.

Coal: A Thing of the Past

Is it time to phase out coal mining as an integral part of the American energy renaissance? Indeed, some people think so; others do not agree. The majority of Americans don't know how closely intertwined American history is with coal production. In fact, a recent study found that only two in ten Americans identified coal as a major energy source for the country's needs. Coal is a combustible black or brownish sedimentary rock that has been used in the production of electricity and heat. Moreover, it is currently the largest source of energy for the generation of electricity worldwide. The coal industry is in rapid decline. Indeed, this decline threatens not only the American coal company and worker but also the world's energy supply. Because of its deleterious effects on the environment and public health, and despite overwhelming arguments in favor of expanding coal production, coal mining should not be part of American energy production as a whole.

Most importantly, coal mining and production wreaks havoc on America's environment. Take its correlation to climate change. For example; the United Nations Environmental Agency (UNEA) rated coal as the single largest human-caused contributor to global climate change. Exemptions to laws like those in the Clean Air Act and the Surface Mining Control Act of 1977 (SMRCA) that regulate companies' emissions quotas often facilitate this worrying acceleration of climate change. Furthermore, coal-fired power plants emit nearly two thousand pounds of CO₂ per megawatt produced. CO₂ is the biggest chemical contributor to climate change. As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency has argued that America's remaining coal reserves should remain in the ground. The agency has argued that this is the only way it will stem the expansion of climate change and save endangered species living in coal-heavy areas.

Also importantly, coal production and its associated health effects have ravaged many rural, poor, Appalachian communities in the United States. One example of this can be found in northern West Virginia. In the decrepit, coal-dominated town of Wheeling, nearly half of former coal miners over the age of fifty five have some form of advanced cancer. Moreover, a study of international evidence showed increased rates of cancer, heart, lung, and kidney disease in communities within a thirty mile radius of a coal mine or a coal-fired power station. Nearly twelve percent of children born in Knox County, Kentucky between 1992 and 1994 had a birth defect of some kind. In fact, doctors at the Mayo Clinic and Harvard Medical School attributed most of the birth defects to the health of the mother. High rates of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) have also plagued many babies and even elderly residents of coal-heavy states like West Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. Certainly, coal has destroyed lives and will only continue to do so if its use is continued or amplified.

Of course, some people vigorously object to the abandonment of the coal industry. Not surprisingly, they cite America's self-sufficiency in coal as a major argument in favor of not just retaining the industry but expanding it even more. Policy makers that tout "clean coal" as the future of American energy do so in an attempt to wean the United States of an increasingly unstable supply of oil and gas coming from the Middle East and Russia. Furthermore, naysayers of a concerted shift to a renewable energy based economy point out that the United States cannot phase out coal in one fell swoop. Strong political opposition from business-oriented Republicans and the coal lobby would make this move politically impractical and nearly impossible to enforce. After all, some Appalachian states rely so heavily on coal for their economic base that twenty percent of jobs in Kentucky, West Virginia, and Ohio are linked to coal production.

In conclusion, there are a range of reasons as to why America should phase-out coal as an energy source. Obviously heavy re-allocation of investments from the coal industry to the renewables industry will need to be completed. This will be a horribly difficult undertaking. Presently, due to its catastrophic effects on America's once pristine environment, coal

Coal: A Thing of the Past

should be relegated as a fuel source of the past. The link between coal production and climate change is well understood. Furthermore, coal production has spawned a major health crisis in certain parts of the country. The only way to reverse or mitigate the effects of this is to move away from the industry that indirectly created the problems. Yes, shifting away from coal may seem politically infeasible, but it is important to engage in a cost-benefit analysis. Either Americans can look forward to a cleaner, more eco-friendly future with more jobs and fewer health risks associated with energy extraction, or it can continue on a dangerous road. Humanity must deal with the environmental and health challenges of coal with the first step to rid a figment of the twentieth century: coal.

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TOWER DIAGRAM

SUBTOPIC SEQUENCE P.O.V. TENSE
 Linking 3 Present

Name: _____

Date: _____

CLAIM:

Eating disorders are life threatening

INTRODUCTORY OPTION:

INTRODUCTORY DETAILS:

- 4) Bulimia [2]
- 3) Anorexia [17]
- 2) EDNOS [3]
- 1) Definition [14]

SUBTOPICS

Reason
 Symptoms of Common disorders
 Bulimia & Anor.

Reason
 Mental & Emotional Effects

Reason
 Not a Physical Illness

- 1) Boer. Syndrome [4]
- 2) ~~Malnutrition~~
- 2) Malnutrition [5]
- 3) Dehydration [6]
- 4) Electrolyte Imbalance [15]
- 5) OCD [11]

- 1) Depression [7]
- 2) Anxiety [8]
- 4) OCD [10]
- 3) Mood Disorders [9]
- 5) OCD [11]

- 1) Cancer [12]
- 2) ~~Malaria~~
- 2) Malaria

CONCLUDING OPTION:

Warnings

CONCLUDING DETAILS:

- 1) They can have deadly symptoms/signs/outcomes
- 2) They can ruin you mentally & emotionally

THESIS STATEMENT:

Many types of eating disorders exist, but the three most common are anorexia, bulimia, & EDNOS.

Are Eating Disorders Life-Threatening Conditions?

Eating disorders are most definitely life-threatening conditions. First off, eating disorders have a serious effect on those with them mentally, physically, and even emotionally. The definition of eating disorder is *conditions defined by abnormal eating habits that may involve either insufficient or excessive food intake to the detriment of an individual's mental health*. Second, anorexics don't eat. They limit their intake of food. Third, bulimics vomit their food up. They binge and purge. Many types of eating disorders exist, but the three most common are anorexia, bulimia and EDNOS.

On one hand, anorexia is an eating disorder characterized by immoderate food restriction, inappropriate eating habits or rituals, obsessions with having a thin figure, an irrational fear of weight gain, and distorted self-body perception. First, anorexia is thought to be a genetic disorder, and therefore can be passed on through generations/family. It's commonly treated with Olanzapine. Second, some conditions that tend to co-insight with anorexia are depression, substance abuse, anxiety disorders, obsessive compulsive disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder, obsessive compulsive personality disorder, and borderline personality disorder. These disorders can build in intensity. Third, anorexia promotes malnutrition. This accounts for 50% of all deaths in 2006, with every 1 in 12 people worldwide being malnourished.

On the other hand, some also alternate between anorexia and bulimia. Firstly, bulimia is known by binge eating, purging (vomiting, laxative, diuretic, stimulants), and/or excessive exercising. Second, bulimia also can be accompanied with fasting periods and other disorders such as mood disorders, anxiety disorders, impulse control and substance misuse. Bulimia is also thought to be genetic and is treated with antidepressants. Third is Boerhaave Syndrome. This is a esophageal rupture due to vomiting. If left untreated, the most likely outcome is death; there have been very few reported cases of living without surgery. However, even with surgery, there's still a 25% chance of death, also known as one in every four.

Additionally, EDNOS is also known as Eating Disorder Not Otherwise Specified. First, this is when someone's disorder doesn't meet the criteria for anorexia or bulimia. Second, EDNOS, symptoms of anorexia and bulimia are shared. There are mixed features of both. There's extremely atypical eating behaviors characterized by neither. EDNOS is considered the default category for eating disorders and is the most common in clinical settings. Third, EDNOS is rising in numbers. It is becoming more of a problem issue.

On the other side of the argument, many do not think that having an eating disorder is that serious. Most with anorexia, bulimia, and EDNOS do not believe they will die. They can be in extreme denial. Others feel that they look awful when they view themselves in the mirror. In fact, many times they look physically fine until their illness is far advanced. Additionally, many believe that therapy is not helpful, and they will be fine on their own. Eating Disorder research does not support this.

Finally, eating disorders present serious problems. One, anorexics restrict food intake. This can lead to death. Two, bulimics purge continuously. Death may become the result if bulimics are left on their own. Three, mixing bulimia and anorexia results in EDNOS. EDNOS is an atypical but extremely deadly disorder. In conclusion, while some believe Eating Disorders are not life-threatening, most research supports that anorexia, bulimia and EDNOS are fatal if left untreated.

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Name: _____ Date: August 11th

PERSUASIVE TOWER DIAGRAM 2

| | | |
|-------------------|------|---------|
| SUBTOPIC SEQUENCE | ROY. | TENSE |
| Thinking | 2 | Present |

ISSUE: Should the death penalty be continued?

CLAIM: Death Penalty is not needed

- INTRODUCTORY DETAILS
- 1 History
 - 2 Methods
 - 3 Banning capital punishment

REASON PARAGRAPH

1. Cost

Linking

- DETAILS
- 2 Comparison to life imprisonment
 - 1 Tax money
 - 3 Space for new criminals

REASON PARAGRAPH

2. Wrongful Exec.

Time

- DETAILS
- 1 Insufficient motivation
 - 2 Quality of defense
 - 3 New evidence

COUNTERARGUMENTS

3. Deterrence

Linking

- DETAILS
- 1 Definition over time
 - 2 Police cheating
 - 3 Psychological

- CONCLUDING DETAILS
- 13 1 Too expensive
 - 14 2 Kills the innocent
 - 15 3 reduces crime

THESIS STATEMENT

The death penalty is not needed in the United States for the execution of criminals.

Capital Punishment: Something that Should be Discarded

Capital punishment is a topic that has had controversy for years; should it or should it not be allowed. First, executions started in ancient Egypt. Only 58 nations are currently supporting and practicing it today. At first, capital punishment was given for a wide range of offenses and was very common. It quickly turned around with fewer and fewer death sentences being given. In addition, the methods of capital punishment have changed over the times. The most commonly used today are electrocution, a firing squad, lethal injection, and a gas chamber. Moreover, 140 countries have abolished or semi-abolished the act of capital punishment. Countries today consider it to be in-humane; most making it illegal. Although some feel strongly that deterrence is needed; capital punishment is not needed in the United States for the execution of criminals because of cost and wrongful execution.

First, three reasons make cost an issue for capital punishment. One example is the tax money going into executions. Most of all government activity is paid with tax payer's money, and prisons spend roughly \$4 billion on executions every year. Another example is the comparison to life imprisonment. Studies show that executing a criminal is nine times more expensive than life imprisonment. This is money coming out of tax payer's pockets every year to kill one person when they can keep them alive and not pay any more than is necessary. A further example is having space for incoming prisoners. With all of these expenses put on for death row criminals, prisons will have less money to house incoming prisoners. When all of the prisons have their hands full, where will all of the prisoners go?

Second, wrongful execution is a major concern. In the first place, once an execution has occurred there is an often insufficient motivation and finance to keep a case open to prove the innocent. Many cases come up where the person involved was proven innocent, yet the prison goes through with the execution. Additionally when new evidence is brought to light many states neglect the evidence with no further plans for pursuing criminal charges. These cases are all left untouched and leaves the families involved, in a horrible state of grief. In the second place, the quality of the defense for most criminals is weak. Defense attorneys may sometimes overlook the facts of the crime when in court for a case. In fact, between 1973 and 2005, 123 cases of post-execution resulted with new evidence on one's innocence. Just think that 123 people died for no good reason by a wronged prosecution and judgment.

To the contrary, many people feel strongly that deterrence will solve capital punishment, but it won't. By way of definition, deterrence is the use of punishment as a threat to stop people from offending. This is saying that if we impose specific punishments on criminals it will scare them into not committing the crimes anymore. Telling a criminal that he will be punished will not stop him from doing something he obviously *wants* to do? In fact, in studies done over the last 15 years show that some police chiefs and others involved in law enforcement may not believe that the death penalty has *any* deterrent effect on those who commit crimes. If police chiefs don't even think that it should be necessary, we should follow them because they have all the information we don't know about when talking about criminals. In addition, statistical evidence shows the psychological patterns of criminals, by showing that most homicides occur as spur-of-the-moment crimes.

Capital Punishment: Something that Should be Discarded

Criminals do not weigh their options before offending, so it is with a grave doubt that they consider the punishment before committing a crime.

To conclude, capital punishment is not an effective option and is not needed when executing criminals. Capital punishment is far too expensive, and takes money away from our already struggling resources. We shouldn't need to spend more than is necessary. Wrongful execution kills the innocent and gives no other options as to how to stop it. Although deterrence is a favored alternative think about the highest authorities, and how *they* even reject the idea of capital punishment. As studies have shown, threatening a criminal has no effect on the murder/crime rates. Despite popular belief on deterrence, think clearly and see that for two main reasons, capital punishment is not needed.

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"All evidence shows ivory trade is incompatible w/ the conservation of elephants"

| | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------|
| SUBTOPIC SEQUENCE | P.O.V | TENSE |
| linking | 3 | Present |

PERSUASIVE TOWER DIAGRAM 2

Name: _____ Date: 7/13/15

ISSUE: Ivory trade (elephants)

CLAIM: trade = bad

Concl. Transition
In summary, the ivory trade is bad for various reasons, although not all people see it that way

INTRODUCTORY DETAILS

- 1 definition
- 2 elephant ivory history
- 3 shows wealth
- 4 world wars' effects

REASON PARAGRAPH

1 endangerment

linking

- 1 N. Africa, S. Africa, W. Africa
- 3 effects of loss
- 2 population drop
- 0
- 0

REASON PARAGRAPH

2 illegal

linking

- 1 1989 ban / EIA
- 2 Appendix 1 vs. 2
- 3 poaching
- 0
- 0

REASON PARAGRAPH

3 opposition to ban

linking

- 1 countries involved
- 2 why
- 3 continuation
- 0
- 0

CONCLUDING DETAILS


- 3 However, the people that believe it is okay claim to have concrete reasoning.
- 0
- 0

1 on one hand, the elephant population has, and continues to suffer tremendously from the trade.

2 Additionally, the act itself is illegal and should not be occurring.

THESIS STATEMENT

While some believe that the ivory trade is acceptable, it endangers the elephant population and is illegal.



July 13, 2015

Save the Elephants

“The ivory trade is the commercial, often illegal trade in the ivory tusks of the hippopotamus, walrus, narwhal, and most commonly, Asian and African elephants” (Ivory Trade). In particular, elephant ivory has been exported for centuries, dating back to the 14th century B.C. The trade has continued all the way up into present day. In fact, ivory was removed consistently throughout the colonization of Africa. This was mainly due to the fact that slaves could be used to transport the tusks. Moreover, the ivory shows status and exotic wealth. Ivory can be made into piano keys, dominoes, containers, jewelry, and many other culture-specific items. Even though the two world wars slowed down the ivory trade, it rose again in the 1970s. By the 1980s, Japan consumed about 40% of the global trade. While some believe the ivory trade is acceptable, it endangers elephants, is illegal, and should continue to be banned.

First, ivory hunters are responsible for the majority of elephant deaths, causing great danger to the elephants. Specifically, these hunters wiped out elephants in North Africa about 1,000 years ago, most of South Africa in the 19th century, and most of West Africa by the end of the 20th century. This was only the beginning of a larger scale issue. As a whole, the African elephant population dropped from 1.3 million to 600,000 in the span of ten years from 1979 to 1989. Deaths continue to happen, albeit many attempts to stop the trade, so elephants may go extinct. In fact, there was a conservation movement created as trade and poaching worsened. Two organizations that participated in preserving the elephant population were the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Second, the trade has gone far enough to become illegal. While the problem intensified, an organization used under cover access to get evidence of wrong doings in the ivory trade. The agency is the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), and they have “done more investigations into the

“illegal ivory” trade than any other group in the world” (Trade Watchdog). Finally, a decision was made in late 1989. In October, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) put African elephants on Appendix 1, which is maximum protection on species and all trade of any parts of the species is illegal. Because of this, the ivory trade was officially banned by 1990. This made any trade or poaching of any kind illegal. Despite the ban, poaching of ivory still remains as a threat to elephants. In 2012, the New York Times reported an upsurge in ivory poaching, with 70% of all trade going to China.

Prior to the EIA, many thought that the ivory trade was okay, and many still do. For instance, a group of African countries support Japanese traders and want to see to it that the trading maintains. These countries include South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Swaziland. In other words, these countries did not, and still do not see ivory trade as a detrimental issue. These countries claim to “have well-managed elephant populations... but need the revenue for conservation purposes” (Southern African opposition to the ban). After fighting for it, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe put their elephants on Appendix 2, allowing international trade of elephant parts. These stockpiles, however, need to be registered and inspected.

In summary, the ivory trade is frowned upon for various reasons, but looked at differently by other countries. On one hand, the elephant population has, and continues to, suffer greatly from the trade. Additionally, the act itself has become illegal, but has not ceased. However, many people that believe it is acceptable and claim to have solid reasons. Finally, “all evidence shows ivory trade is incompatible with the conservation of elephants” (Trade Watchdog), so why not abide by the law, stop the killing of the elephants that have done nothing to deserve this, and stop the torture ~~know~~ as the **known** ivory trade?

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F

Name: _____
Date: August 17th

PERSUASIVE TOWER DIAGRAM 2

ISSUE

Should the death penalty be allowed?

CLAIM

Death Penalty is not needed.

INTRODUCTORY DETAILS

- 1 History
- 2 Methods
- 3 Banning capital punishment

REASON PARAGRAPH

2 Wrongful execution

Time

DETAILS

- 1 Misjudgment
- 2 Quality of defense
- 3 New evidence

CONCLUDING DETAILS

- 1 too expensive
- 2 kills the innocent
- 3 reduces crime

COUNTERARGUMENTS

3 Deterrence

Linking

DETAILS

- 1 Definition
- 2 Police cheating
- 3 Psychological

REASON PARAGRAPH

1 Cost

Linking

DETAILS

- 2 Comparison to life imprisonment
- 3 Tax money
- 4 Space for new criminals

CONCLUDING DETAILS

- 1 too expensive
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