

Assignment One Opinion-Editorial

The Center for Disease Control, a federal government agency, tallies 14,925 homicides by firearms for the year 2016. If this seems like an abnormally large number, it is; according to CNN, “Gun homicide rates are 25.2 times higher in the US than in other high-income countries.” And these figures from 2016 don’t include the 22,938 people who committed suicide via firearms, or the 495 people killed in accidental shootings. Arguably, these numbers represent an epidemic of gun violence that the government could take steps to address. Despite this evidence of a problem, little has been accomplished at the federal and state levels of government to address it.

For this assignment, students must write an op-ed style essay that argues for a position on what action the federal government should take regarding gun violence in America. It should demonstrate familiarity with the issues involved in this debate. Students may choose to advocate for a particular plan that has been proposed in congress, the adoption of state regulations that should be implemented at the federal level, or a solution proposed by non-governmental groups – the NRA, The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, etc.

Essays should be at least 600 words in length. They should include the following elements:

- A thesis sentence at the end of your first paragraph that clearly states the position that you are advocating for
- At least three paragraphs that are organized by topic
- At least one direct quote integrated into the writer’s sentence
- Fair summarization of positions opposed to the one you are advocating
- Solid information supporting the position you are advocating. You will need to make a logical argument supported by credible evidence from valid sources
- You will not need a works cited page, but your presentation of the information should mention its source: “A study conducted by the Center for Disease Control indicates....”