



NAME: _____

CLASSROOM LAW PROJECT

THE DEATH PENALTY

VOCABULARY

Directions: Frontload (introduce and review) these vocabulary words with your students to facilitate their understanding of the topic and coinciding resources:

1. **Capital Punishment** (n.) - State/Government approved practice of putting a person to death as punishment for a crime.
2. **Death Penalty** (n.) - The execution or killing of a person administered legally as punishment for a capital crime.
3. **Deterrence** (n.) - The action of discouraging an action/event by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences for such an action/event.
4. **Eighth Amendment** (n.) - The eighth amendment of the U.S. constitution that prohibits excessive bail, fines and cruel and unusual punishment as repercussions during the judicial process. The amendment is most often referred to in context of death penalty cases, specifically the language prohibited 'cruel and unusual punishments'.
5. **Lethal Injection** (n.) - An injection administered for the purpose of capital punishment.

CURRENT EVENT ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Directions: As you read through news and other resources about TOPIC, consider the following questions:

- What are the arguments for and against the use of capital punishment? Which do you think are the strongest?
- How does the United States' relationship with the death penalty compare to the rest of the world?
- How does the Supreme Court determine the constitutionality of the death penalty? What documents and precedents do they refer to?
- What role does federalism play in the implementation and banning of capital punishment within the United States?
- What role does public opinion play on the implementation and banning of capital punishment?
- How has the perception of the death penalty changed throughout the course of both U.S. and human history?