

Issue # 9: The Environment

The environment is not a U.S.-specific issue; it affects everyone, everywhere. The much-debated Kyoto Protocol and President George W. Bush's decision to start drilling for oil in Alaska show just how far-reaching the issue is. There are those who see a major problem with our current environmental state, just as there are those who see no major problem at all. Many do think that the government should take some measures to ensure the protection of the environment for the future, if not now. What do you think?

1. We should do whatever we can, including placing tighter restrictions on emissions and waste. Earth should be our first priority, because if it isn't, we won't last for long.
2. I think we should definitely take strident measures to right our environmental wrongs. I support legislation for the protection and regeneration of our environment, but not the point where it will become our highest priority.
3. The earth is definitely important, but anything we do should be done with its effects on our economy and business taken into consideration. Let's make sure we have our priorities straight. My pocketbook is at risk.
4. We can not place any more restrictions on companies and factories because they will stifle business. Our economic fate should be our first priority, the environment second.
5. The environment shouldn't be a key issue when we need to be worrying about our economy. I think we should lift all regulations on emissions and waste on companies if it will help them produce faster.

Issue # 10: Crime and Capital Punishment

An incredibly volatile issue, crime and capital punishment remain sensitive to religious groups, human rights advocates, and others. Many question the effectiveness of our current system. Certain states allow capital punishment. Those who support it claim that it is a deterrent, meant to discourage would-be criminals, and that it is a just punishment for an appropriate crime. They also argue that it brings closure to a victim's family. Others argue that the punishment is inhumane and counts as cruel and unusual, illegal as per Amendment VII. They would discredit capital punishment's function as a crime deterrent. What would you say?

1. Capital punishment is evil and illegal. I am fervently against it in all cases. It justifies nothing, and isn't justified itself.
 2. We should reform our penal codes and our prison system. One of the steps we should take is to ban capital punishment, but not immediately. Reform is more important right now.
 3. Our current system will function better with some minor changes. We should increase jail time. Capital punishment should only be used in the most extreme cases.
 4. Parole should be limited, and sentences should be a bit harsher. Capital punishment works as a deterrent, and it is a perfectly moral and legal way to deal with wrongdoers.
 5. We should increase the use of capital punishment as much as we possibly can. We should also make our sentences as damaging as possible. Parole should be eliminated altogether. Justice must prevail, and this is the only way it can.
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