



Contest topics: Please select ONE of these topics.

Gun violence

The interpretation of the Constitution's Second Amendment is central to the conversations around gun violence. How it is interpreted impacts our nation's views on gun violence and the solutions that are explored. **What are the main interpretations of the Second Amendment and how do they impact gun policies?**

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - How do gun rights groups (National Rifle Association, Gun Owners of America, etc.) typically interpret the Second Amendment? (10 points)
 - How do groups that advocate for restrictive gun laws (Moms Demand Action, Heeding God's Call, etc.) typically interpret the Second Amendment? (10 points)
 - What did the Supreme Court decide in the court case, District of Columbia v. Heller? (5 points)
 - Compare the U.S. understanding of private gun ownership with that of at least one other industrialized country. How do the rates of gun violence in the two countries compare? (10 points)
 - How has the Second Amendment been interpreted differently for people of color? (5 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - Do you agree with the Supreme Court's ruling in DC v. Heller? How do you think the Second Amendment should be interpreted in today's context? (10 points)
 - What might be some policies that could help reduce gun violence in the U.S., without violating the Second Amendment? Explain. (20 points)
 - How might Anabaptist values influence the way we respond to and interpret the Second Amendment? (10 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - ESSAY: Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.
 - VIDEO: Create a simple infographic that could be used on social media to promote your policy recommendations. Please submit as a separate PDF document (it does not need to be incorporated into the video.)
- *Presentation/writing style (10 points) – Videos and essays will be granted up to 10 points for writing/speaking style, grammar, spelling, citation and coherency.*

Immigration

Immigration continues to be a polarizing issue in the United States. The rhetoric from politicians and pundits is increasingly hostile and sometimes racist and hateful. But, if we could for a moment ignore the politics and the rhetoric on both sides, what would we find at the heart of the debate? Why do people migrate to the U.S.? What factors influence this decision?

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - Interview a recent immigrant in your community. Why did he/she choose to come to the U.S.? What factors in his/her home country influenced this decision? What factors in the U.S.? (20 points)
 - How does this immigrant's story compare with national data on why people migrate? (10 points)
 - How does this story match up with stories of migration in the Bible? (5 points)
 - How does this immigrant's story compare with the stories of your ancestors or yourself? (5 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - How should our Christian and Anabaptist values influence our response to immigrants in our communities? (10 points)
 - What federal government policy changes should be made to address problems with our current immigration system? (15 points)
 - What federal government policy changes should be made in order to address the root causes of migration to the U.S.? (15 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - ESSAY: Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.
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- *Presentation/writing style (10 points) – Videos and essays will be granted up to 10 points for writing/speaking style, grammar, spelling, citation (essays) and coherency.*

Police reform and racial justice

What has led to the movement and public outcry to “defund” police departments across the United States? How would police reform impact racial justice?

- *Understanding of the issue (40 points total)*
 - What specific events led to the outcry for police reform in the U.S.? (10 points)
 - How does the use of force by police in the U.S. compare to police practices in other industrialized countries? (5 points)
 - What do advocates mean by the call to “defund the police”? (15 points)
 - How would police reform impact communities of color? (10 points)
- *Problem solving (40 points total)*
 - How should Christian and Anabaptist values guide our thinking on this issue? (10 points)
 - What efforts have been made in Congress to reform police forces? What have been the points of disagreement? (15 points)
 - What actions can be taken to “defund” police in the U.S.? Which entities can carry these out? (15 points)
- *Communication with Congress (10 points)*
 - ESSAY: Letter to Congress: Write a letter to your members of Congress encouraging them to consider your policy recommendations (maximum 200 words). Please submit as a separate page at the end of your essay.

- VIDEO: Create a simple infographic that could be used on social media to promote your policy recommendations. Please submit as a separate PDF document (it does not need to be incorporated into the video.)
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