

Death Penalty

Student's Name

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Death Penalty

Death is considered to be the ultimate penalty. It should be mentioned that many people were put to death in the last century in the USA and other countries of the world, and a great number of convicts are sitting on the death row waiting for a similar fate. All these convicts have committed horrible crimes, such as murders, rapes, assassinations, as well as high treasons. Many of these convicts have been found guilty of their crimes, but they show no remorse for having committed such terrible things. Without doubts, these people do deserve to be punished, but there is a question concerning the capital punishment and its methods.

In the nowadays society, there are different points of view on the methods of capital punishments. Some people are con the capital punishment; while others are pro and do hesitate as to the best method to be applied to. It is worth mentioning that there are following death methods that are usually used in the current world: lethal injection, hanging, gas chamber, electrocution, and firing squad.

Methods of Death

Lethal Injection. The convict is given some time before the execution in order to get ready for his / her death. The convict is usually strapped down to a table, arms stretched out in a cross. A prison attendant inserts two intravenous tubes into the arms of the convict. These tubes are laid to the next room where an officer presses a button that releases a deadly dose of barbiturate through the intravenous tubes. Either pentathol or pavulon is used as the barbiturate for the execution. The officials and witnesses can observe the execution. The convict is allowed to say his /her last word. In a few minutes, the convict falls into a deep sleep, his / her breathing and heart rate begin to slow and stop.

Gas Chamber. The gas chamber execution is allowed in several states of the USA. It is worth stressing that the last execution took place in 1999, in Arizona. The convict is placed into a chair in an airtight chamber. From outside the chamber, a prison attendant causes sodium cyanide pellets to be dropped into a bucket of acid located beneath the convict's chair. The fumes cause death within ten or fifteen minutes, but such death is considered very painful and unbearable.

Hanging. The prisoner has a hood placed over the head and has his /her hands bound behind the back. The prisoner is led to the platform and a noose is placed over the prisoner's head. An attendant causes the platform beneath the prisoner's feet to fall away quickly. As a result, the spinal cord snaps due to the force of the drop, thus, death occurs within seconds. Hanging was a common form of execution in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, and nowadays, it is still legal in some countries.

Electrocution. Harold P. Brown invented the electric chair while working with Thomas Edison. In 1889, this chair was approved for committing the executions. The convict is strapped into a wooden chair; a helmet is placed on his / her head and the helmet is strapped behind the chair. Electrodes are attached to the head and one leg only. The warden flips a switch causing five amperes of current at 2000 volts to flow into the body. The electricity interferes with brain and other organs and causes death within some minutes.

Firing Squad. The criminal has a hood placed over the head and is made to stand against a concrete wall. On command, a dozen shooters take aim and fire several rounds into the criminal. Death may be instant or take several minutes, depending on the number of bullets and their placement. Firing squad was a common form of military execution in the past centuries.

This method of execution is allowed in Oklahoma and Idaho as well as some other countries of the world.

In conclusion, the question on the death penalty and its methods was, is, and will be debatable.