

## EPO Abstract

My Extended Project is the title 'How Morally Valid is the Concept of Capital Punishment and how Ethical are the Laws Surrounding it in the UK and the USA'. Essentially I will be combining the concepts of Law and Ethics and discussing the how ethical all the factors surrounding the Death Penalty in the USA are- which will allow me not only to question whether it is right to punish someone with death, but also the concept of death row. I will in essence compare the legal systems of the UK and the USA with regards to the death penalty as well as looking at public attitudes to it in each country.

I have used a number of sources to research my title, and have obtained a number of books from my Philosophy and Ethics teacher discussing the ethics behind taking a life. I am in the process of writing to members of a group called 'Amicus' which sends over British Lawyers to the USA to defend clients on Death Row, as often they are poorly represented by American Lawyers. I have found a number of sources discussing the statistics of the death penalty in America, though I will have to ensure that these are unbiased statistics- although a number of states have lists of the offenders and executed on death row on the internet, where information and statistics, provided by the federal government are shown.

I decided to do this as a project as I am interested in taking Law at University, though I am also interested in the ethics side of things as I am taking Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. I also think that the concept of the death penalty is possibly the most controversial law and I am very intrigued about the laws that surround it in the USA. Ultimately I would like to go a small way to seeing to what degree, laws are ethically valid, which is a much more general outlook compared to my very specific title.

