

March 18 Lesson Plan

1. Wheels vs. Doors (*approx. 5-10 minutes*)
 - a. Use as an introduction/segue into different types of arguments
2. Death Penalty Overview (*approx. 10 minutes*)
 - a. Presentation that discusses:
 - i. History of death penalty (all crimes used to be punishable by death)
 1. Common Law: all crimes used to be punishable by death
 2. Eighth Amendment
 - ii. Hallmark cases
 - iii. Statistics about unequal application of death penalty (impact on marginalized communities)
 - iv. Facts about states which have/don't have death penalty
3. Policymaking Debate (*approx. 20-30 minutes*)
 - a. Students will pick a piece of number with 1-4 out of a bowl
 - b. Each number corresponds with a different policy making group
 - c. Proposed Law:
 - i. **Death shall not be proscribed as a punishment for any state or federal offense.**
 - d. Policy Groups:
 - i. Victims' Rights Advocates (anti-law)
 - ii. States' Rights Advocates (anti-law)
 - iii. The NAACP (pro-law)
 - iv. Innocence Project (pro-law)
 - e. Will distribute handout with a description of each policy group and what they typically stand for/represent
 - f. Each policy group will gather in a corner of the room and come up with their best arguments
 - g. I will stand as a Senator – each group will debate and try to convince me how to vote (arguing the position that they believe best supports their assigned group)