

Juvenile Justice

ERWC English 12 - Spring 2018

Driving Questions:

- How does society react to teens who are involved in violent situations and environments, and to what extent should these teens be treated like adults?
- What empathy and knowledge can we gain from the story of Luis in *Always Running* in order to help us better understand the struggles of juveniles in the justice system?

Essay Requirements:

- Must use evidence from the ERWC sources/articles in your response; use at least two sources in your response for this assignment.
Students may use additional sources of research not originally provided, but are not required.
- Must use a thoughtful paragraph structure, including a counterargument, with clear topic sentences to form a well-connected argument.
- Must use a strong thesis that establishes a clear and logical argument.
- Must use correctly integrated quotations.
- Must balance evidence with thorough commentary and context.
- Must include a Works Cited Page and accurate page formatting following MLA guidelines.

ASSIGNMENT II: PERSUASIVE ESSAY

Prompt: Juvenile Justice

In an article titled, “Kids Are Kids – Until They Commit Crimes”, author Marjie Lundstrom states that society is often quick to dismiss people under 18 years old until, “...they foul up. Until they commit crimes. And the bigger the crime, the more eager we are to call them adults.” Why do you think society is so eager to hold teens who commit violent crimes to the same standards as adults? Consider the following:

On June 25, 2012, the Supreme Court ruled that juveniles who committed murder could not be sentenced to life in prison because it violated the Eighth Amendment’s ban on cruel and unusual punishment. Justice Elena Kagan, writing for the majority, stated that “Mandatory life without parole for a juvenile precludes consideration of his chronological age and its hallmark features—among them, immaturity, impetuosity, and failure to appreciate risks and consequences. It prevents taking into account the family and home environment that surrounds him—and from which he cannot usually extricate himself—no matter how brutal or dysfunctional.” However, four justices strongly disagreed, arguing that mandatory sentences reflected the will of American society that heinous crimes committed by juveniles should always be punished with a sentence to life in prison. Justice Alito noted that otherwise, “Even a 17 ½-year-old who sets off a bomb in a crowded mall or guns down a dozen students and teachers is a ‘child’ and must be given a chance to persuade a judge to permit his release into society...”

In what situations should teenagers who commit serious, violent crimes be tried as adults? Why, or why not? Examine this situation, indicate the side with which you most strongly agree, and argue how you think society should respond based off of evidence found in the articles discussed in class.

Outline

Introduction Paragraph:

Hook:

Transition:

Explanation:

Thesis:

Evidence – Examples - Details



Body Paragraph 1 (Reason #1)

Source 1

Topic Sentence:

Body Paragraph 2 (Reason #2)

Source 2

Topic Sentence:

Body Paragraph 3 (Reason #3)

Source 3 / Counter Argument

Topic Sentence:

Conclusion:

Present a new, relevant idea that you have not explored

Restate the thesis in a new way

Discuss any additional evidence or commentary you could not find a place for in the essay