

Jenny Johnson

Problem Synthesis

While looking at all of the articles on gun violence, I noticed that they are all connected by at least three common themes. I think that the three main ones that are found in the articles, would be protection, family institutions/geography, and mental illnesses. I think that protection is the one that many people know about, but when it comes to the family and geography, it might be a little biased, but I think that it still counts. The last theme that comes up, would be mental illnesses, and how they affect gun violence, and the media.

When it comes to protection, I think that a lot of people will agree that they have carried a firearm at least once in their life, because they wanted to feel safe, or protected. In at least three articles that I used, I noticed that they mentioned surveying people, and asked if they have ever carried a firearm, and why. Many people answered yes, and that the only reason that they carried it, was for their protection, or to feel safe. I also think that many people were comfortable answering truthfully to the surveys, because the surveys were anonymous. The people who carry a firearm answered that they had no intention on using it on anyone, but they would have it if anything were to happen. I think that this theme can relate to the next theme, which deals with family/ geography.

When I say family/geography, I mean family and home town. I think that who your family is, and where they grow up has a lot of influence on whether or not you might carry a gun with you or not. There are about two articles that I have worked with that support this. I think that the surveys really show that the people in more southern and rural places want to protect gun rights. The people in the south, are also the families that grew up with guns in the household, and

are the people who will most likely carry a gun for protection, rather than violence. It would be a big change for the people in the south to give up their guns, because that is what they are used to, and that is how they were raised.

The last theme that I want to bring up would be mental illnesses. There are two articles that I have read that mention something about mental illnesses, and how they relate to gun violence. The articles also mention why mass shootings relate to mental illnesses, but many instances in the news might not mention that the shooter has an illness or not, they just want to make it about how a bad person shot up a school, not that they might not have been making an intellectual decision. I understand that gun violence is real, and there are people who are aware of what they are doing, and have this hatred in them, but there are kids who become school shooters, because they are not all there mentally.

I don't think that these are all of the themes that relate to gun violence, but I think that these are the main ones that I have found in articles that I have read. I think that all of these themes relate to the family institution, or the politics institution. Family seems to have the biggest persuasion on this topic, and politics seems to be fighting it, and trying to take away people's right to protection.

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