

Criminal Justice Research Paper Suggestions

- Should the judicial system be reevaluated or changed because of racially unfair sentences?
- What changes should be implemented to prevent male-male prison rape?
- How has the proliferation of privately funded prisons changed the criminal justice system in America?
- Should certain non-violent crimes be punishable by fines rather than jail time?
- Are state-mandated "three-strikes" policies unfair?
- Should children who commit certain crimes be treated as adults? If so, is there a lower age limit to this policy?
- Are exile programs (where a criminal is sent to prison in a distant state) fair?
- What kinds of rights should criminals have?
- What conditions of incarceration are fair?
- Are certain kinds of capital punishment cruel and unusual?
- Should capital punishment be suspended because of racial disparities?
- Should capital punishment be suspended because of the chance of executing an innocent person?
- Should prison be punitive or rehabilitary in nature?
- Now that genetic/DNA evidence is admissible in court, should controversial closed cases be re-opened?
- If someone has already been executed, should his or her case be re-opened under certain circumstances? Should some kind of reparation be made to the families of the wrongfully accused?
- Should there be a limit to the number of death row appeals that can be made?
- Presuming that capital punishment is allowable, what types of crimes should this apply to? Only murder? Treason?

- Is society's obligation to simply remove a criminal from society, to actually punish the criminal for crime, or a combination of both? Considering this, then what is the nature of the death penalty in America today?
- Should the legal requirements for obtaining a search warrant be changed?
- If an officer finds something that he was not looking for (e.g., narcotics in an automobile that was being searched for firearms), why should or shouldn't the officer have the right to take the accused into custody? Consider the issue of "reasonable suspicion" in your discussion.
- Why are lawyers stereotyped as sharks? Is this a fair representation, and if not, why is it so prevalent?
- Many consider today's justice system to be too slow. What improvements could be made to expedite the system without sacrificing due process?
- Many states have harsher penalties than others for drunk driving. Consider the policies of a particular state and argue for a change in the penalties.
- Define "terrorist." Under what circumstances, if any, is "terrorism" acceptable?
- Should terrorists be tried in a military or civil court?
- If being tried in our court system, should the citizens of other countries have the same rights as citizens of the United States?
- Argue for or against an amendment to the statute of limitations for a particular crime.