*Gun Control*

*“A well-regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and*

 *bear arms shall not be infringed.”*

—Second Amendment, 1791

First view the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Er_HugcPmJ8>.

Gun Control is a hot-button issue in the current “culture war.” Mass shootings in the United States are becoming increasingly frequent. Unfortunately, our home community was added to the list as a result of the shooting at the Borderline on November 7, 2018. Answer the questions below.

1. What right does the Second Amendment to the Constitution protect? Do you think this protection is necessary? Why or why not? Explain.

1. Why did the Founders include the Second Amendment in the Bill of Rights? Do you think that their reasons are still valid today? Why or why not? Explain.
2. Some commentators have suggested heavily taxing / regulating bullets in order to limit gun violence. Do you think that would be constitutional? Explain.
3. Limiting the availability of high-capacity magazines and restricting semi-automatic weapons has been forwarded as a means to prevent mass shootings. From a constitutional standpoint, how, if at all, do we separate the type of weaponry that may be owned by government officials and law enforcement from that which is available to the general public? Explain.
4. 5. Some regulations have been criticized as criminalizing the behavior of millions of law-abiding citizens because of the criminal acts of others. Should laws be based on harm / intended harm, or also on potential to do harm? Explain.
5. Some studies have shown a correlation between handgun bans and a decrease in the suicide rate – to what extent is it appropriate / constitutional to base limitations of the 2nd Amendment on the prevention of self-inflicted harm? Explain.
6. Should teachers and school personnel be allowed / required to carry guns in schools? Explain.
7. Why do you think gun control is controversial?