

## GUN CONTROL STIMULUS MATERIALS

## SOURCE 1

**History of gun rights and gun control in the U.S.**

**1791:** The Second Amendment to the Constitution states: "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." This has been interpreted in two different ways: that the right to bear arms belongs only to those serving in a militia; and that every individual American has the right.

**1939:** The Supreme Court, in its *U.S. v. Miller* decision, implied that, rather than allowing individuals to own guns, the Second Amendment applies only to people serving in militias.

**1968:** After the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr., the Gun Control Act made it illegal for felons and the mentally ill to buy guns, and banned mail order sales of guns.

**1993:** The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act made it mandatory for gun dealers to run background checks on purchasers, and set up a national database of people prohibited from owning guns. According to the FBI, more than 100 million of these background checks were performed in the ten years beginning 2001; between 1994 and 2012, nearly 2 million sales were stopped, most of them to convicted felons.

**1994:** Congress passed a ten-year ban on manufacturing assault weapons for private citizens.

**2004:** The assault weapons ban lapsed, and was not renewed.

**2007:** After the shootings at Virginia Tech, Congress legislated improvements in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

**2008:** In a 5-4 decision in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Supreme Court ruled that the Bill of Rights guarantees individual citizens the right to keep a loaded handgun in the home.

**2009:** A victory and a defeat for gun rights advocates at the federal level: a new law let national parks visitors carry loaded and concealed weapons; and the Senate voted down a proposed law that would have let gun owners with valid permits carry concealed weapons in other states.

**2012:** States including Michigan, Ohio and Oklahoma passed laws granting gun owners broader rights. Meanwhile, Senator Dianne Feinstein promised to introduce a new assault weapons ban early in 2013; the NRA promised to fight any new restrictions.

<http://news-basics.com/2013/guns-violence-and-gun-control/>

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/07/mass-shootings-map#update>

<http://blogs.kaed.org/lowdown/category/gun-violence/>

## SOURCE 2

**Notorious mass shootings in the U.S. since 1960**

**1966:** University of Texas at Austin. Student and former Marine Charles Whitman, firing from a university tower, killed 14 people and wounded 32 others before being killed by a police officer.

**1999:** Columbine High School, Colorado. High school students Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris killed 12 students and a teacher, and injured 21 others, before committing suicide.

**February 2000** Six-year-old Kayla Rolland is shot dead at Buell Elementary School near Flint, Michigan, by a six-year-old boy

**May 2000** 13 year-old Nate Brazill shoots dead a teacher at Lake Worth school, Florida, after being sent home

**March 2005** 16-year-old Jeff Weise guns down five students, a teacher and a security guard at Red Lake High School in northern Minnesota before killing himself. He had also just killed his grandfather and his grandfather's companion

**September 2006** 15-year-old student kills his school principal in western Wisconsin

**October 2006** Charles Roberts kills five girls at a one-classroom Pennsylvania Amish school

**2007:** Virginia Tech. Seung-Hui Cho, a student, killed 32 people and wounded 17 before committing suicide.

**2012:** Aurora, Colorado. James Holmes killed 12 and wounded 58 others at a midnight screening of *The Dark Knight Rises*, a Batman movie. Holmes was arrested outside the theatre.

**2012:** Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Connecticut. After killing his mother, Adam Lanza, 20, entered this school and killed 26 people, 20 of them children (ages six and seven), before committing suicide.

## SOURCE 3

**Update May 24, 2014:** America's latest mass shooting took place in Santa Barbara on Friday night. The New York Times reports: "A college student who posted videos that documented his rage against women for rejecting him killed six people and wounded 13 others during a spasm of terror, the police said. He stabbed three men to death in his apartment and shot the others as he methodically opened fire on bystanders on the crowded streets of this small town." According to the LA Times, the guns he used—two Sig Sauer p226 model handguns and a Glock 34—were legally purchased from federally licensed dealers and were registered to the killer, whose serious mental health problems were well-known, and who after a shootout with police ended his own life with a bullet to the head.

**2012:** A gunman killed 12 people and wounded 59 at a Colorado cinema early Friday morning. Police apprehended the killer and identified him as James Eagan Holmes, 24, a former neuroscience PhD student. He armed himself with an assault rifle, a shotgun and a pistol and fired at random at moviegoers attending the midnight premiere of the new Batman movie "The Dark Knight Rises". Holmes had dyed his hair red, just like Batman's nemesis the Joker, and wore full body armour and a gas mask. Many initially thought he was part of a stunt for the movie screening. Cinemas in New York got police protection after the shooting to prevent copycat killings. The premiere in Paris was immediately cancelled.

## SOURCE 4

***Three Level Guide***

LEVEL ONE:

1. The Gun Control Act did not allow the purchase of guns by post. (Source 1)

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2. From 2009, people are allowed to bring weapons and bullets into national parks. (Source 1)

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3. The NRA and Dianne Feinstein do not agree on gun control. (Source 1)

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4. The Santa Barbara student killed himself after shooting at the police. (Source 3)

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LEVEL TWO:

1. Since 2004, assault weapons have been available for private citizens. (source 1)

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2. Martin Luther King Jr and Robert F. Kennedy were killed by guns. (Source 1)

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3. Background checks were useful in blocking the sale of weapons to criminals from 1994. (Source 1)

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4. People are not allowed to carry hidden weapons in other states. (Source 1)

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LEVEL THREE:

Do you agree or disagree with this statement: "Gun control measures have been ineffective in reducing gun violence." Write a paragraph giving your opinion and supporting it with evidence.

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**VOCABULARY**

<b>WORD</b>	<b>ANSWER</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
A. AMENDMENT	_____	ANGER
B. CONSTITUTION	_____	ARRESTED
C. BEAR	_____	BUYERS
D. INFRINGED	_____	BANNED, NOT ALLOWED TO
E. IMPLIED	_____	LIMITED OR RESTRICTED
F. FELONS	_____	MADE RULES OR LAWS
G. APPREHENDED	_____	CRIMINALS
H. FIRING	_____	HURT
I. MANDATORY	_____	NOT CONTINUED
J. PURCHASERS	_____	HIDDEN, SECRET
K. PROHIBITED	_____	SET OF GOVERNMENT RULES
L. LAPSED	_____	A CHANGE TO A RULE
M. LEGISLATED	_____	NECESSARY, HAVE TO
N. ADVOCATES	_____	TRUE, REAL
O. CONCEALED	_____	MEANT, NOT SAID OPENLY
P. VALID	_____	IN AN ORGANISED WAY
Q. RAGE	_____	SUPPORTERS, PEOPLE WHO SUPPORT
R. METHODICALLY	_____	CARRY
S. WOUNDED	_____	FIRST NIGHT
T. NEMESIS	_____	AT THE BEGINNING, FIRSTLY
U. INITIALLY	_____	JOKE, PRANK
V. STUNT	_____	ENEMY
W. PREMIERE	_____	SHOOTING

## **REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSES:**

A **RELATIVE CLAUSE** gives more information about the noun. A **REDUCED RELATIVE CLAUSE** is a shorter way of expressing the same information when the subject is the same.

This is done by changing **who/which/that + verb** to an '-ing' verb.

- The man **driving** the car is a friend of mine.  
(= The man **who is** driving the car is a friend of mine).
- Students **handing** in their essays late will lose ten marks.  
(= Students **who hand** in their essays late will lose ten marks).

***Change these sentences, using reduced relative clauses:***

1. Congress passed a ten-year ban which banned private citizens from buying assault rifles.

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2. Marine Charles Whitman, who was firing from a university tower, killed 14 people.

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3. The killer's videos which documented his anger against women were found after his suicide.

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4. Cinemas which were showing the film in New York asked for police protection.

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5. In 2009 a new law was passed which allowed visitors to carry a gun.

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6. Under the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, people who serve in a militia can bear arms.

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7. People who deal in guns must run background checks.

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