Vaite Mahuru

English 12

March 14, 2016

Argumentative Essay

 Picking a topic can be pretty tough, especially when you have to make an argumentative essay on it. Searching and looking through topics one came up to mind and the question was, is torture ever acceptable? Doing research on this topic there were many articles that had shown up. A view on, if torture is ever acceptable, is a pretty hard topic to comprehend so doing lots and lots of research will help argue your point against the topic.

 Going back to the question, is torture ever acceptable, when I argue with this topic it seems like a pretty hard topic to argue about, well at least in my case. When it comes to torture many think of it as an act of punishment for a wrong doing. When I came across the topic the first time, I knew it would be a good topic to argue and get the reader’s attention. Torture can be a cruel word and finding whether it is an acceptable punishment or not.

 First off, reasons why torture is acceptable, I came across an article, in the New York Times, and it states, “However rare the cases, there are circumstances in which torture would be required to acquire life-saving information. And once you've established the principle, the argument is not whether torture is ever permissible, but when—in other words, how big, how imminent, how preventable does the threat have to be to justify it?” when reading through this article it also showed an understandable example, “Imagine this scenario: A terrorist has planted a nuclear bomb in New York City. It will go off in one hour. A million people will die. You capture the terrorist. He knows where it is. He's not talking. If you have the slightest belief that hanging this man by his thumbs, or some other method of torture, will get you the information to save a million people, are you justified in doing so? Not only is it permissible; it is a moral duty.” This comes to show that torture would me permissible when you need to save a “million people” and when you should really do it, the right time.

 Secondly, why torture should not be acceptable, in the same article as before, The New York Times, it states, “We are Americans, and we hold ourselves to humane standards of treatment of people—no matter how evil they may be. America stands for a moral mission, one of freedom and democracy and human rights at home and abroad. We are better than these terrorists, and we will win. The enemy we fight has no respect for human life or human rights. They don't deserve our sympathy.” Connecting to the same example as before, in the article it states a clear example, “First, subjecting prisoners to abuse leads to bad intelligence, because under torture a detainee will tell the interrogator anything to make the pain stop. Second, mistreatment of our prisoners endangers U.S. troops who might be captured by the enemy, if not in this war, then in the next. Third, prisoner abuses exact a terrible toll in the war of ideas, because inevitably these abuses become public. When they do, the actions of a few darken our reputation in the eyes of millions. American values should win any war of ideas, and we can't let prisoner abuse tarnish our image.” This comes to show that torture shouldn’t be acceptable because the enemy can capture our soldiers and do the same harm to them as we do with our prisoners.

 Coming across this article also came across my mind where I should stand on which side I’m arguing against. To me both arguments are both stated very clearly and both have great examples and meaning to them. But to me I would argue that torture should be acceptable, just having people do harm to other people is just wrong and it makes no sense to me that they wouldn’t be punished for their wrong doing. Like stated in the article, if someone, or a terrorist, had killed millions of people we can’t just lock them up and not do anything about it. They should be punished for their wrong doing and learn from their actions.