

The Pro-Gun Guide

How to Interact with Anti-Gunners in the U.S.

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This document is updated regularly, so check back often for new info. Suggestions? Additions? Send email to heartpout2@gmail.com.

Before you begin, it might be helpful to [click here to read about](#) how this guide is designed and how to best use it.

Remember, verbal dueling only goes so far! There are all sorts of other effective things to do to help the pro-gun cause! Take

people shooting, where they learn that guns aren't magical or inherently evil in any way, and they can see for themselves how much fun it is. Donate to pro-2nd Amendment organizations, etc.

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21. [They Say: "We should impose universal background checks" and/or "Congress should expand background checks to include all private gun sales."](#)
22. [They Say: "We need a central \[national\] registry of guns."](#)
23. [They Say: "We should tax guns and/or ammo in order to pay for the societal costs of gun crime."](#)
24. [They Say: "We should rescind the 2005 law that holds firearm manufacturers and sellers harmless for the illegal acts committed with firearms" and/or "The gun industry is totally protected from lawsuits."](#)

25. They Say: "No one needs more than x guns. Certainly no one needs an 'arsenal' of six or seven."
26. They Say: We should impose a mandatory waiting period for gun purchases.
27. They Say: The 2nd Amendment says, "A well-regulated militia . . ."
Built right into the 2nd is a call for gun control and central oversight.
28. They Say: "All gun owners should be forced to pass a gun safety class."
29. They Say: "We should ban all handguns. Rifles we can keep around for the hunters."
30. They Say: "We should mandate that all new guns support microstamping."
31. They Say: "Your right to own a firearm does not trump my right to feel safe."
32. They Say: "You don't need a gun, the police [the State, the government, etc.] are there to keep you safe."
33. They Say: "You don't need a gun, get a dog instead."
34. They Say: "Gun ownership and gun culture is dying out in the U.S."
35. They Say: "Why can't gun owners just compromise?"
36. They Say: "Gun-free zones save lives."
37. They Say: "No one wants to take your guns" and/or "No one's infringing on your 2nd Amendment rights" and/or President Obama [Hillary Clinton, the Democrats, etc.] isn't [aren't] trying to take your guns."
38. They Say: "We should do what Australia did, with their gun buyback initiative. They haven't had a mass shooting since."
39. They Say: We should close the "gun show loophole."
40. They Say: "No one needs an 'assault weapon.' Military weapons have no place in civilian hands."
41. They Say: "If you are a true Christian and/or pacifist, your beliefs are odds with owning a firearm" and or "Using a gun is immoral" and/or "Violence even in the name of self-defense is wrong."

42. [They Say: "Gun ownership is racist" and/or "Gun owners are just a bunch of racist old white men."](#)
43. [They Say: "If you ban manufacture of new guns now, in 50 or 100 years, the supply will have dried up and we will see a reduction in crime."](#)
44. [They Say: "What we need are more "common sense" gun laws" and/or "I'm not anti-gun, I just think we need more common sense gun laws to keep guns out of the hands of crazy people and criminals."](#)
45. [They Say: "Every gun owner is a 'responsible' gun owner until he pulls the trigger and shoots someone."](#)
46. [They Say: "You can buy any kind of gun you want over the internet!" and/or "It's entirely too easy to buy a gun in the U.S.!"](#)
47. [They Say: "Rifles are one thing, but no one needs a handgun."](#)
48. [They Say: "Don't you have any compassion for all those little kids killed at Sandy Hook?"](#)
49. [They Say: "We have a serious gun problem in this country, and we refuse to address it."](#)
50. [They Say: "So you think there shouldn't be any laws restricting your right to own guns? Why not just have everyone be allowed to own surface-to-air missiles, suitcase nukes, nuclear warheads, aircraft carriers?"](#)
51. [They Say: "Every gun owner should be required to buy insurance."](#)
52. [They Say: "It is a sick society when everyone is so afraid they arm themselves to the point where their own guns are used against them."](#)
53. [They Say: "Why shouldn't doctors be allowed to ask if you've got guns in your home? They already ask if you use car seats, if you buckle up when you drive, if you keep your poisons locked away, and about your smoking habits."](#)
54. [They Say: "Having a gun in your house means the chances of you or a family member being shot are much higher than for those who live in homes without guns."](#)

55. They Say: "The idea that a regular person carrying a weapon could stop a mass shooter [a bad guy, a criminal, a robber, a mugger, an attacker, etc.] is ludicrous."
56. They Say: "Women shouldn't carry guns to prevent assault. Statistics show that a woman who carries a gun is more likely to have it turned against her during an assault than incapacitate her attacker with it."
57. They Say: "England [or Europe] has extremely restrictive gun control laws and hence a lower murder rate than America. We should learn something and attempt to emulate their system."
58. They Say: "Gun owners are just a bunch of rednecks."
59. They Say: "Gun owners are just a bunch of ammosexuals /gun nuts /gun fetishists/ lunatics/ terrorists/ murderers/ gun huggers/ gun fondlers/ murderers."
60. They Say: "40 percent of all guns are purchased without a background check."
61. They Say: "If we didn't have so many guns, and military-style guns, the police wouldn't need to militarize themselves."
62. They Say: "What we need is a 1000% tax surcharge on guns or ammunition, or both. This would reduce the number of gun sales. Guns would still be legal to purchase, just extremely expensive."
63. They Say: "There should be laws requiring gun owners to lock up their guns when they aren't in use."
64. They Say: "There should be laws requiring gun owners to report a lost or stolen gun."
65. They Say: "The states with the strictest gun laws have the fewest gun deaths."
66. They Say: "Why are gun owners so afraid of registration, anyway? If you're a law-abiding gun owner, you have nothing to worry about."
67. They Say: "Rosie O'Donnell [Jim Carrey, Justin Bieber, Amy Schumer, etc.] says that guns are bad and we need more gun control."
68. They Say: "We need to restrict guns in order to prevent school shootings/mass murder."

69. They Say: "Every gun should have a GPS tracking device built in that instantly transmits the coordinates of the gun to the police whenever it's fired."
70. They Say: "You don't need a gun, you'll never need to use it" and/or "How often do people ever use guns to defend themselves?"
71. They Say: "Quit comparing cars with guns, there is no comparison between the two."
72. They Say: (After a mass knifing): "Thank God he didn't have a gun or the death toll would be much higher!"
73. They Say: "We need to restrict guns because it's too easy for people to commit suicide with them."
74. They Say: "'The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun'--that's a myth. In real life, that doesn't happen."
75. They Say: "The NRA blocks all research investigating gun violence as a public policy issue!"
76. They Say: "We have moved beyond a world where guns are needed" and/or "There is no need for such violent objects in today's society" and/or "Guns are made for war, I'm anti-war."
77. They Say: "Real men don't need guns."
78. They Say: "Guns are dangerous!"
79. They Say: "Maybe you're just a tad hysterical. Don't worry--black helicopters aren't coming for your guns."
80. They Say: "Don't you care about the inner-city youth who are killing themselves disproportionately because of the availability of handguns?" and/or "The reason urban areas are so dangerous despite their strict gun control laws is because guns flow in from rural states!"
81. They Say: "If more gun control laws will save even one life, then it's worth it."
82. They Say: "I look forward to kicking down your door to confiscate your guns."
83. They Say: "90 percent of Americans support background checks."

84. They Say: "We put all sorts of restrictions on our Constitutional rights for the greater good. You can't shout 'fire' in a crowded theater, for example. That's a limit on free speech."
85. They Say: "Quit using Switzerland as an example of a place with low violence despite high gun ownership. They're only allowed to own rifles if they're in the military and their ammo is all locked up."
86. They Say: "The 2nd Amendment says 'A well-regulated militia' Okay, what militia do you belong to? We don't have militias anymore."
87. They Say: "We should fix the loophole that allows firearm dealers to sell a gun if a response to the background check (yes or no) isn't received in three business days."
88. They Say: "We have to push for gun control in order to do something about this horrible increase in gun violence in recent years."
89. They Say: "We need more laws overseeing the sale of guns. They are entirely too easy to get."
90. They Say: "Why shouldn't we restrict guns, they restricted fertilizer after the Oklahoma bombing."
91. They Say: "The problem with high-end sniper rifles is that they're too accurate."
92. They Say: "You can't have just any gun you want, people would be walking around with machine guns!"
93. They Say: "I guess it's okay to own guns for target practice and sports shooting, but the guns should be locked up when not in use at a police station, sportsmen's club, or armory" and/or "You don't need such powerful weapons for sports shooting, why can't you just use air rifles?"
94. They Say: "We have a terribly strong gun culture in the U.S. that is the direct cause of all this violence."
95. They Say: "The NRA is no grass-roots organization. It gets the bulk [or half] of its money from gun manufacturers!" and/or "The NRA exists to make money for gun manufacturers!"
96. They Say: "What we need is a bullet ballistic fingerprint system, where we know exactly which gun fired which bullet."

97. They Say: "You don't need a gun, you've got non-lethal methods for self-defense! Pepper spray, rape whistle, etc."
98. They Say: "Study X and study Y and study Z, along with over 50 others, all show that if we just removed guns we'd have less violence etc. etc. etc."
99. They Say: "According to the Violence Policy Center [or other authority or organization], gun violence is at an all-time high etc. etc. "
100. They Say: "If all the good guys have a gun, and the bad guys know it, that just means that the bad guys will make sure to kill the good guys before robbing/attacking them, whereas otherwise they would have just let the unarmed people go without hurting them, after the crime."
101. They Say: "I don't understand your point here. You say that having guns is ok because there are less gun deaths than car deaths or deaths due to medical errors? Well, of course we should improve safety on the road and reduce risks in hospitals, but they are problems totally independent. Without guns, many lives would be saved. We need cars, we need doctors, we don't need guns."
102. They Say: "The NRA/pro-gunners are against laws that would keep terrorists from owning guns! They even want to allow people on the no-fly list to be able to own guns."
103. They Say: "The idea that we should have no gun control laws because people don't follow them is stupid. We get it: crazy people and criminals don't follow laws. But we don't base the rule of law on how often laws are followed. By this logic, we should get rid of drunk driving laws, because thousands of people got killed by drunk drivers this past year."
104. They Say: "Owning a gun actually makes you less safe."
105. They Say: "We need to close loopholes that allow domestic abusers and stalkers to obtain guns" and/or "we need a registry because when a woman gets a restraining order against her abuser, the cops need to know what guns he has so that they can be confiscated."

106. [They Say: "How come when I go to Walmart I need to show ID to buy Sudafed, but I can buy a box of ammo without needing to show ID? Insane!"](#)
107. [They Say: "There have been 355+ mass shootings in 2015 alone!"](#)
108. [They Say: "The U.S. leads the world in gun deaths."](#)
109. [They Say: "You don't need to know the specifics about guns and gun technology to argue for gun control."](#)
110. [They Say: "If placing more regulations on guns will save even a single death, it's worth it."](#)

[How to Use this Guide](#)

[Appendix](#)

They Say: "The thought of guns as a safeguard against tyranny is ludicrous. If the citizenry ever did actually revolt against a tyrannical government, the government would crush the rebels with their vastly superior weaponry" and/or "You're crazy, a despotic government couldn't happen here."

You Say:

A: A well-armed citizenry is deterrent enough in itself. Check out what happened at the Bundy ranch (whether or not you think they were on the right side of the law, the point still holds). The government will think twice before engaging in tyrannical acts if its opponents are well armed, not wishing to further provoke a bloody mass uprising. The *threat* of rebellion is itself a deterrent. Our guns are quashing tyranny even as they lie unused.

B: A great number of armed forces members would not shoot on their own people--their families, their friends. They take an oath to uphold the Constitution, not blindly follow orders.

C: It may indeed be the case that the citizenry stands no chance against the might of the government, but *if there is any chance at all*, it will be *with* guns rather than without them. *That itself is reason enough to insist that the populace remain armed.* As Goebbels said after the Jewish Warsaw revolt in World War II: "This just shows what you can expect from Jews if they lay hands on weapons."

D: Afghanistan, Iraq, and Vietnam show that one should not so easily discount the difficulties of winning a protracted, asymmetric ground war fought by zealous insurgents who blend in with the local population.

E: You're talking mass insurrection. There are a lot of occasions where the fight might just be local. We're not talking *just* about the federal government, after all. Can't you possibly imagine a scenario where a local police department abuses its authority? If they've got the guns, and you don't, how are you going to prevent them from doing whatever they want? Lawsuits take time, money, and lawyers.

F: You need to familiarize yourself with The Battle of Athens. This is a pretty good historical example of the value of the 2nd Amendment in fighting tyrannical authority. This was a rebellion led by armed citizens in McMinn County, Tennessee, against local government in 1946, against what was essentially political corruption and voter intimidation. As one of the rebels said at the time, "The principles that we fought for in this past war do not exist in McMinn County. We fought for democracy because we believe in democracy but not the form we live under in this county." There was also the Battle of Blair Mountain in 1921. For five days in late August and early September 1921, in Logan County, West Virginia, some 10,000 armed coal miners confronted 3,000 lawmen and strikebreakers who were backed by coal mine operators during an attempt by the miners to unionize the southwestern West Virginia coalfields. The battle ended after approximately one million rounds were fired, and the United States Army intervened by presidential order.

G: Tyrants are not all government officials: many act in a private capacity and are just as deadly.

H: What you said doesn't mean what you think it means. The fact that our military has such powerful weapons that the citizenry lacks doesn't negate the 2nd Amendment, but spotlights that the 2nd has been trampled too much already. Rolling back some infringements would further secure our liberty.

I: "How we burned in the prison camps later thinking: What would things have been like if every police operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive? If during periods of mass arrests people had not simply sat there in their lairs, paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever was at hand? The organs would very quickly have suffered a shortage of officers and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed machine would have ground to a halt. If...if...We didn't love freedom enough. And even more – we had no awareness of the real situation.... We purely and simply deserved everything that happened afterward." -- Alexander Solzhenitsyn, Nobel Prize winner and author of *The Gulag Archipelago*, who spent 11 years in Soviet concentration camps.

J: Only fools who have no concept of modern war take that position. I'm sorry but if you think this, you simply do not understand military conflict in the 21st century or historically.

K: Allow me to give you a few examples that will quickly show you the reality of the situation, which is that the U.S. military stands no chance what-so-ever against even a moderate proportion of the civilian uprising.

- Iraq and Afghanistan: In over 10 years resistance has never been stamped out, in countries with much smaller populations than ours (both <1/10th), despite our massive technological advantages. This is with significant infighting in both countries.
- Vietnam: A country of less than 1/10th our population was subjected to more bombing than was used in all of WWII and began the conflict less well armed than the US public is now. Despite this, in the end the North Vietnamese ultimately prevailed.
- There are countless more examples from all across the globe (From Russia to Nicaragua, From Columbia to Kurdistan, etc.) that unequivocally show armed

populations can crush organized militaries, or at the very least resist them effectively for extended periods of time.

L: Almost 100 million Americans are armed (the number of which would likely grow in this event) armed with approximately 350,000,000 guns including almost 500,000 machine guns (although to be fair most are sub-machine guns). You'd have to do this with a combined army and police force (including reserves) of a little over 2 million (assuming no desertion or refusal of orders). Mass defection and resistance from within the military and police would be very common. These US soldiers have families and friends in the civilian world, and many (like the oathkeepers) are dedicated to NOT engaging those targets with violence. There would be massive resistance in the ranks, it would be at best chaos. However even if this were NOT the case and it was an army of automatons, the sheer number of armed citizens would be so overwhelming as for it not to matter much. That's not to say any conflict wouldn't be a BRUTAL and costly affair, but with enough participants from the public the conclusion would be forgone.

M: So, there are 100 million gun owners in the U.S. If even 1 percent "plays Rambo," as you anti-gunners like to say, that's a million people. 1%! Do you know how many law enforcement people there are in the entire country? Only somewhere in the tens of thousands.

Actually, it's been estimated that 3% will actually fight and die for the cause. The 3 Percenters:

<http://threepercentersclub.org/index.php/pages/about-us>

N: The Second Amendment and 100 million U.S. civilians with 300 million guns ensures that U.S. federal and local governments will not be ones that slaughters civilians by the hundreds, thousands, or millions.

" . . . democide surpassed war as the leading cause of non-natural death in the 20th century. . . ." <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democide>

"Democide is a term revived and redefined by the political scientist R. J. Rummel (1932-2014) as "the murder of any person or people by their government,

including genocide, politicide and mass murder." Rummel created the term as an extended concept to include forms of government murder that are not covered by the term genocide, and it has become accepted among other scholars. According to Rummel, democide surpassed war as the leading cause of non-natural death in the 20th century His research shows that the death toll from democide is far greater than the death toll from war. After studying over 8,000 reports of government-caused deaths, Rummel estimates that there have been 262 million victims of democide in the last century. According to his figures, six times as many people have died from the actions of people working for governments than have died in battle" None of those countries had a Second Amendment and an armed populace.

Let's look at just one of many examples of British atrocities toward their people which was possible only because of the severe disparity in power. "On April 13, 1919, thousands of peaceful protesters defied a government order and demonstrated against British rule in Amritsar, India. Men, women, and children all descended on the walled Jallianwala Gardens, hoping to make their voices heard. What happened next was one of the lowest points in British history. At 4:30pm, troops blocked the exits to the Garden and opened fire on the crowd. They kept firing until they ran out of ammunition. In the space of ten minutes, they killed between 379 and 1,000 protesters and injured another 1,100. A stampede caused a lethal crush by the blocked exits. Over 100 women and children who looked for safety in a well drowned. Rifle fire tore the rest to shreds"

O: Who in the world can predict what will come to pass? We can barely predict the political winds of tomorrow--how are we supposed to predict the future, say, one hundred years hence? Simply put, we can't. Gun ownership serves as a means of hedging our bets in case things go to hell. After all, no sensible German could have imagined in 1840 that in just 100 years, the government would round up millions of people and attempt to exterminate an entire race.

P: Who do you think installs and maintains the tanks, the aircraft, and other weapons of war that the military owns? Civilians! I'd suggest that since a very large number of these are installed and maintained by civilian contractors, oftentimes

veterans who did the same job in the military, that say, in a hypothetical situation where the federal government becomes overtly tyrannical and tries to confiscate privately owned firearms (and the almost certain mass arrests and imprisonment of political/ideological opponents), it's not too great a stretch of the imagination to think that many of these weapons systems (and their communications and logistics) would be actively sabotaged. Yes, an AC-130 gunship can devastate a neighborhood from 30,000 ft, but not if it's grounded because the hydraulics and avionics are busted, and all the spares are bad.

Q: Tanks/drones/submarines/nukes will not be able to secure a street corner and prevent assembly. That requires ground troops, and those are vulnerable to small arms fire.

R: Suppose the government of Russia told the government of the United States that by restricting the kinds and quantities of arms available to the US army, deaths around the world could be reduced. A reasonable response from the US government would be: Well, that might be true, but someday we may need those arms to defend ourselves against you, so it would be absurd for us to let you tell us what kinds or quantities of arms we can have. Make sense? Now let's change the players. Suppose the government of the United States told the citizens of the United States that by restricting the kinds and quantities of arms available to citizens, deaths around the country could be reduced. A reasonable response from the citizens would be: Well, that might be true, but someday we may need those arms to defend ourselves against you, so it would be absurd for us to let you tell us what kinds or quantities of arms we can have. To rephrase it as a question: How much control should another country have over how we choose to arm ourselves for defense against that country? None at all, right? That's exactly how much control our government should have over how we choose to arm ourselves for defense against that government.

S: [If you are military or law enforcement] The 2nd amendment is the teeth of the constitution. That's why it is under constant attack by those who have lust for ultimate control and power. As long as we have an armed population they cannot

achieve their goal. And before you chime in with the whole “your guns can't stop tanks” idiotic nonsense let me share this: I remember my oath. “To defend the constitution against both foreign and DOMESTIC aggressors.” The same oath that every military and police personnel have taken. There are higher level brass in the military and sheriffs across the country that have made it known they would stand AGAINST federal tyranny. Guess what they have? Tanks, air, sea, etc. This is why they haven't just gone after the guns already. They know if they did the result would be catastrophic.

Comments:

Sources for F:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Athens_\(1946\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Athens_(1946))

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Blair_Mountain

Source for N:

<http://listverse.com/2014/02/04/10-evil-crimes-of-the-british-empire/>

They Say: “The Founders could never envision a time when firearm technology evolved to such a level of deadly sophistication.”

You Say:

A: Why does that matter? The Founders also could never envision a time in which existed the internet, the web, social media, tweets on cell phones, huge printing presses and print distribution centers, electronic billboards, bumper stickers, radio, TV, Netflix, cable TV, satellite communications, so on and so forth. And yet, we don't make the argument that these modern examples of our 1st Amendment rights somehow are outmoded. All technology evolves. We no longer write with quill pens, does that mean our 1st Amendment rights are affected?

B: That said, if you feel the need to somehow modify the 2nd Amendment, there is an established, official process for doing so. Better get started with that Constitutional amendment!

C: On the contrary, firearms of the Colonial era were plenty deadly for their time. A blunderbuss is a terribly dangerous and destructive weapon. Imagine a couple of those being fired on a crowd of people. There would be mass injuries. And you know, a cannon is a pretty incredibly destructive weapon, wouldn't you say? In Colonial times, cannons were privately owned, any yet the Founders didn't see fit to exclude them.

D: Not true. The Founders knew that society would change over time, so they built a political system that was flexible enough to evolve. That's one reason why our Constitution lacks a lot of detail compared to other countries'. It specifies the basic principles and rights that should be true for men and women throughout time.

E: Fine, we'll just arm our police with muskets and flintlocks, and we'll see how that works out for them.

F: This is doing The Founders a disservice. They had the vision to create our country, but couldn't envision technological advances? Firearms were advancing since their inception in like the 13th century, so they were already exposed to the technological advancement of firearms, let alone other technologies. Jules Verne envisioned sending men to the moon on rockets. The Wright brothers envisioned heavier than air flight. You're telling me that *none* of The Founders could envision self-loading, semi-automatic firearms? I'm sure they would have loved to have some during the Revolutionary War.

G: The Founders would have wanted the citizens to have the *best* tools available. Even if they couldn't envision it, they would want us to have it. You have to remember the frame of mind they were in. They were rebels. They were defying the law of a king, and if they'd lost the war, they would have paid with their lives,

they'd swing on a rope. They'd have been strung up! They knew first hand what kinds of tools they needed to survive. This was no shallow philosophical argument for them--it was survival. Given all that, you betcha they'd want the very best tools available to counter the king's military might!

H: Powerful and rapid-firing weapons have been available since the dawn of our nation. For instance, In 1777, Philadelphia gunsmith Joseph Belton offered the Continental Congress a "new improved gun," the Belton Flintlock, which was capable of firing up to twenty shots in five seconds; unlike older repeaters using complex lever-action mechanisms, it used a simpler system of superposed loads, and was loaded with a single large paper cartridge. A number of prototypes were commissioned and tested. Congress requested that Belton modify 100 flintlock muskets to fire eight shots in this manner, but rescinded the order when Belton's price proved too high. Another example is the Girandoni air rifle. With a full air reservoir, the Girandoni air rifle had the capacity to shoot 30 shots at useful pressure. It was the first repeating, high-rate-of-fire rifle of any kind to see military service. One of the rifle's more famous uses was during the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore and map the western part of North America in the early 1800s. Then take a look at the Puckle Gun, in use since the early 1700's, which was able to fire 9 rounds a minute.

Comments:

Source for H:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Belton_flintlock

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puckle_gun

They Say: “The 2nd Amendment is a relic, no longer relevant in modern society” and/or “The 2nd Amendment is obsolete, just like the 3rd Amendment” and/or “Why should we base public policy on a 200-year-old document?”

You Say:

A: You got any other civil rights you just want to toss away like that? How about your right to free speech or right to practice whatever religion you want, you want to just dismiss them so easily?

B: That may be, but a lot of people disagree with you. If you want to get rid of it, you need to pass a Constitutional amendment to repeal it. Good luck with that.

C: Just what has changed so much from then to now to make you think it’s no longer relevant? Do people no longer try to control other people? Are there no more wars? Do we no longer have the right to defend ourselves?

D: The 3rd Amendment isn’t obsolete. I’d say it’s more like hibernating. We still don’t want soldiers quartered in our private homes without consent. If the scenario ever comes up again where that’s an issue, the 3rd Amendment will be there to help prevent it, along with maybe some help from the 2nd.

E: And yet, you never hear anyone say, “‘All men are created equal’ made sense in 1776 but not anymore.” You can’t pick and choose which parts of the Constitution you want to toss out, at least not without a Constitutional amendment.

F: Well, John F. Kennedy certainly didn’t think it was obsolete: “By calling attention to a well-regulated militia, the security of the nation and the right of each citizen to keep and bear arms, our founding forefathers recognized the essentially civilian

nature of our economy. Although it is extremely unlikely that the fears of government tyranny, which gave rise to the Second Amendment, will ever be a major danger to our nation, the Amendment still remains a major declaration of our basic civilian-military relationships, in which every citizen must be ready to participate in the defense of his country. For that reason, I believe the Second Amendment will always be important.”

G: It’s baffling to me that the State wouldn’t trust its law-abiding citizens with guns. If you're trusted and competent enough to vote (easily the most dangerous right/power), to raise or work with children, to handle money, or to drive a car, you’re already trusted with the power to cause all kinds of harm, loss, or even death. To tell the people who put you in office that they are not competent to defend their own lives, or that they are not trustworthy enough to have a handgun without going on a spree, is just insulting and anti-democracy to me.

H: Why should we base our policy on a 200-year-old document? What the hell are you talking about? That document may be 200-plus years old, but it’s still THE document that all our present-day laws are ultimately based on! Just because it’s old doesn’t mean it’s outdated, rather the fact that it’s old shows that it’s stood the test of time as a fundamental, core legal document!

I: Owning a firearm is my birthright as an American. It, along with other rights articulated in the Constitution, is what makes me an American.

Comments:

Is the Constitution still important, still vital today? We think it is. All the laws which guide our lives are ultimately based on it. And yet sometimes it seems that not too many people appreciate it. Whether it’s through a general complacency that has grown in the population in the generations following the establishment of this country, whether it’s the failure of our schools to impart the importance of the Constitution to the young--whatever the reason, it would seem that a great number of people today really don’t care about it so much. If you bring it up in the wrong

group of people, you're laughed at. It is important to remember this when you appeal to the Constitution in a discussion about firearms--a lot of people won't know what you're talking about, either because they were never given an opportunity to learn about political philosophy and United States history, or else because they don't care. When you use the Constitution to make a point, what is self-evident to you--that this is a powerful document very much relevant to our lives--may not be at all obvious to them. Your argument may not gain much traction as a result. You may be on the receiving end of some eye-rolls. If you want to take the time, you may have to step back and explain why you consider the Constitution to be a relevant and vital document. Often such educational opportunities are not possible in short, antagonistic discussions, however.

They Say: "The reason you gun nuts like your guns so much is because your 'manhood is challenged.'"

You Say:

A: When did body shaming become an acceptable practice?

B: I own firearms not, as you suggest, to compensate for my manhood, but to compensate for the fact that I don't have the natural ability to propel metal projectiles to supersonic velocities for defensive purposes.

C: Er, I'm a woman and I own guns (my wife owns guns, my daughter likes guns, etc.), that REALLY doesn't make sense, you're TOTALLY off base with that one, are you just talking without your brain engaged to your mouth?

D: So, this is the level you've stooped to. Tell you what, I'm gonna stop right here until such time you are able to hold a mature conversation.

E: You greatly underestimate the number of responsible women gun owners (obviously without a need for compensation) who take responsibility for the

protection of their homes and families. With budgets stretched for enough law enforcement to respond in time, it seems logical.

F: Why are you thinking of my manhood again? If you want nudes you could have just asked.

G: Hey, I'm not insulted, I'm quite flattered when people think about my manhood and imagine how large it may or may not be.

H: No, the reason that some of us like our guns so much is because them our birthright as Americans. Among other things, we believe a gun in a citizen's hand is both a symbol of and an actual tool ensuring liberty, in the sense that it forces government to be an entity that serves us rather than rules us, ensures that we are citizens rather than subjects in relation to the law.

Comments:

Previous versions of this document originally contained a more graphic term for "manhood." We've replaced it because many people objected to it and suggested that this Guide was less useful for such language. However, it should be noted that anti-gunners typically use that graphic language when describing pro-gunners and their affinity for firearms. It's a personal attack, one which is quite common.

Example: Shaun King of the New York Daily News:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BytBNt7_gHw4eXJjekhXZEFQUDQ/view?usp=sharing

They Say: "Guns' only purpose is to kill."

You Say:

A: If their only purpose is to kill, then the vast majority of the approximately 350 million guns present in the U.S. must be design failures, because the vast majority will never kill anyone or anything.

Imagine if you had another product--say, a washing machine--that failed in 99.99 percent of its intended function. You would absolutely say that the product was a failure. But since manufacturers still produce and sell guns, and there's plenty of people who want to buy them, it follows that those guns must be used for purposes other than killing.

B: Maybe one purpose of a gun is for the *threat* of killing, at least sometimes (excluding target pistols and such). But the *threat* of killing can be a good thing, because that is the very fundamental idea behind self-defense. It means, at least, that one can ward off an attacker without actually harming him. Actually, a defensive firearm is more of a *peacekeeper* rather than a lethal object.

C: Ethically and morally you may disagree, but in my opinion and the opinion of the courts, there is such a thing as justified homicide.

D: The only reason for a sword is to kill, and yet fencing is an accepted sport. The purpose of a bow is to kill, yet archery is a respected and noble sport. The original purpose of an object does not confer a permanent purpose. Purpose is determined by intent.

E: No, a gun's purpose is to deter violence. In most defensive gun uses, the firearm is not discharged, nobody is killed, and no blood is shed.

F: Yes . . . and your point is? I will not be a victim!

G: If you mean "killing things that are trying to kill me," then you are absolutely correct.

H: Actually firearms serve one purpose: to propel projectiles. The reason why those projectiles are propelled is up to the person pulling the trigger. Many guns are used only for target practice and sports shooting.

I: Knives are designed for slicing and hammers for bludgeoning, but people kill with those all the time. Cars are designed as conveyances but as many or more people die by car crash annually than by firearms. Should we also talk about banning knives, hammers, and cars?

J: My firearms have never killed anything or anyone, and since I am a responsible gun owner, they never will unless used in self-defense or to provide food when necessary.

K: Then why does the State hire people to carry them? Are you saying that the State sanctions killing only if done by its own agents (law enforcement officers)? If the State's agents only carry to defend themselves then the same holds true for average citizens.

L: A gun is merely a tool. It will never jump up and kill someone by itself.

M: The operative phrase is "Thou shalt not MURDER." Not all killing is murder. Some is justified, as in killing in self-defense or defense of other innocents.

N: Then how have I fired thousands of rounds that did not and were not intended to harm any living thing?

O: Shooting guns at the range is actually a great way to relieve stress. Having a bad day? Go to the range and shoot a few rounds, you'll feel much better afterward. You should try it sometime.

P: No, a gun's purpose is to punch holes. What you punch holes in and why are entirely different matters.

Q: And yet, when *your* life is being threatened, the very first thing you will do is call someone who carries a gun. Because you are too afraid to carry one yourself. And in all probability it will be too late by the time the officer gets there.

R: Self-defense does not necessarily mean killing. Guns can be (and are) used successfully for self defense without firing a shot.

They Say: "Sure the 2nd Amendment guarantees the right to own firearms, but only for the types of weapons that were available at the time of its writing (muskets, flintlocks, etc.)."

You Say:

A: Does that apply to the 1st Amendment too? Do you still write with a quill pen?

B: The idea was that the citizenry should be armed with the types of weapons equivalent to what the government was able to own, so that the citizenry could rise up against tyranny. So, as weapon technology evolves and is available to the government, so should the citizenry have comparable weapons.

C: How do you feel about arming the police with muskets and flintlocks? How well do you think that would work out? So, you can see why I don't really want to be stuck with the technology of the 1700's when it comes to self-defense.

D: I guess you are against smart gun technology then, right? Because logically you'd then have to be against any technology that wasn't available in Colonial times, and of course biometrics etc. were still centuries ahead in the future. No? You still think smart guns are a good idea? Well then you're just looking for any old reason to justify your sketchy argument, it has nothing to do with principle or consistency.

They Say: “The 2nd Amendment refers to a collective right, not an individual right” and/or “*Heller* redefined the 2nd Amendment in a manner inconsistent with historical interpretations of the amendment.”

You Say:

A: Not according to *Heller*. And it’s the Supreme Court’s opinion that matters.

B: If this were true, it would be the only article in the Bill of Rights where collective rights were prioritized over individual rights. Therefore it seems unlikely that is what the Founders intended.

C: Nowhere in the Bill of Rights will you find the terms “individual” or “collective,” yet every other right described in the first ten Amendments is understood to be an individual right. In fact, the 4th Amendment also refers to “the people” collectively, yet the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures that lack probable cause is one that every person in the United States enjoys.

D: Even Barack Obama, a Constitutional scholar and a leading proponent for gun control by his own admission, conceded that it’s an individual right (although at the same time, in the same statement, he couldn’t resist calling for restrictions on the 2nd). Here is what he said at the time of the *Heller* decision: “I have always believed that the Second Amendment protects the right of individuals to bear arms, but I also identify with the need for crime-ravaged communities to save their children from the violence that plagues our streets through common-sense, effective safety measures. The Supreme Court has now endorsed that view, and while it ruled that the D.C. gun ban went too far, Justice Scalia himself acknowledged that this right is not absolute and subject to reasonable regulations enacted by local communities to keep their streets safe. Today’s ruling, the first

clear statement on this issue in 127 years, will provide much-needed guidance to local jurisdictions across the country.”

E: Beyond what the courts have said, a majority of Americans themselves believe that the 2nd protects individual, not collective, rights. A 2008 Washington Post poll showed that 72 percent of Americans thought the 2nd Amendment, which reads: "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," protects individuals' rights as well as militias' rights to own guns.

F: The Second Amendment mentions “the people.” “The people” means *the people*. A reading of the Federalist Papers clearly defines the meaning behind the 2nd Amendment to mean that bearing arms is an individual right.

G: Any Supreme Court decisions that ruled that gun rights were a collective rather than individual right were simply wrong based on a reading of the Federalist Papers. *Heller* got it right.

H: Even if it is a collective right rather than an individual right, I would say there is hardly any gun owner in America who thinks of their firearm possession in that way. If you suddenly begin trying to formally treat it as a collective right--maybe require that all guns be locked up in armories when not in use or whatever--I think you’re going to see an incredible amount of pushback across the country.

I: Legal experts far smarter than either of us disagree with you.

J: *Heller* recognized what was obvious to the amendment’s drafters, to the people who debated it, and to the jurists of their era and beyond: That “right of the people” means “right of the people,” as it does everywhere else in both the Bill of Rights and in the common law that preceded it. A 2nd Amendment without the *Heller* “interpretation” wouldn’t be any impediment to regulation at all. It would be an effective repeal. It would be the end of the right itself. In other words, it would

be exactly what you want! Man up. Put together a plan, and take those words out of the Constitution.

K: Supreme Court Justice Thomas Cooley stated of the Second Amendment in *People v. Hurlbut* (24 Mich. 44, 108 (1871): "The right is general. It may be supposed from the phraseology of this provision that the right to keep and bear arms was only guaranteed to the militia; but this would be an interpretation not warranted by the intent. The militia, as has been explained elsewhere, consists of those persons who, under the law, are liable to the performance of military duty, and are officered and enrolled for service when called upon. ... If the right were limited to those enrolled, the purpose of the guarantee might be defeated altogether by the action or the neglect to act of the government it was meant to hold in check. The meaning of the provision undoubtedly is, that the people, from whom the militia must be taken, shall have the right to keep and bear arms, and they need no permission or regulation of law for that purpose."

<http://www.wnd.com/2016/09/intent-of-2nd-amendment-is-crystal-clear/#VY8E3jdED4Mt6DR1.99>

Comments:

Arguments based on logic for this topic can get very detailed and specifically legal. If you're not a lawyer, and then a Constitutional lawyer, or a student of 2nd Amendment history, then any argument or discussion based on the facts of the matter is really one conducted by amateurs. It's recommended to keep this in mind when arguing this point--even the experts continue to disagree over this issue. For example, it only would have required one Supreme Court justice to vote against *Heller* for the case to go the other way. There are Supreme Court justices who do not believe that the 2nd confers individual, as opposed to collective, rights. But remember, just because the issue is controversial doesn't mean that the anti-gunners are *right*.

Meanwhile, you can't just sit there saying nothing while your non-Constitutional-scholar opponent makes claims suggesting that the 2nd Amendment refers to the collective and not individuals, or to the state and not citizens. He might win over the audience watching/listening if you don't take action. The statements above should help you be prepared to fight back. If all else fails, remind your opponent that neither of you are Constitutional scholars. Remind him that Barack Obama IS a Constitutional scholar, and even he admitted that the 2nd refers to an individual right.

Source for D:

http://volokh.com/archives/archive_2008_06_22-2008_06_28.shtml#1214515180, although you can find this statement quoted extensively elsewhere through a Google search.

Source for E:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/the-fix/wp/2015/11/05/does-the-phrase-gun-control-hurt-the-push-for-new-gun-laws/>

Source for J:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/node/423183/%E2%80%9Chttp%3A/t.co/cKR0Nk4Uwm%E2%80%9D> . "J" above is taken word-from word for what is written there, an exact quote.

[Editor's note to himself: need to include info here, with citations, about self-defense being an inalienable natural right, which of course means it can't be a collective right. Also history about gun rights in Western tradition in England and such leading up to our jurisprudence.]

They Say: “The process for obtaining a firearm should be as difficult as it is to get a car. Registration, license, insurance, inspections, etc.”

You Say:

A: You don’t need a background check to buy a car!

B: None of those things you mention are needed if I keep my car on private property. How about I just keep my firearm on my private property? That means I won’t have to have any of those things, right?

C: It’s MUCH harder to buy a gun than buy a car, particularly if your history includes criminal behavior. For a car, both new and used, in both cases you write a check and sign a title. There is less paperwork in buying a car than purchasing a gun! When buying the car, you don’t have to have two forms of government issued ID (depending on the state), have to fill out a “car transference form,” sometimes need a pre-existing Firearms Owners Card, and undergo a background check. This in spite of the fact that owning a gun is a Constitutional right and a car is not!

D: So, about registering cars, those registries have been misused on occasion. Government registries have a rather disturbing history of being used against their citizens. For example, at least 74 law enforcers were suspected of misusing the D.A.V.I.D. car registration in Florida in 2012, a nearly 400 percent increase from 2011, according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Officers were pulling down photographs and private information of people, sometimes for purposes of revenge.

E:

- You are not required to register and tag a vehicle at the point of purchase. You could back up a flatbed to the dealership and drive off with it that way. (Unlike guns which need in some states to be registered, and all need serial numbers.)

- Lots of states don't require actual drivers education. (Unlike states where you need to pass a course to get a firearm owner's card.)
- I'm not required to inspect or insure a car that I operate on private pieces of land. I'm not even required to get my car inspected before use on public roads in 48 states.
- Felons can own cars.
- There are incredibly few restrictions on car designs and models.
- There are practically no limits on what I can do to modify my car, at least compared to firearms.
- There is no waiting period or background check for buying a car.
- Cars can be freely bought and sold by almost anyone any time.

Most of that actually doesn't sound too bad. It would certainly make owning a gun easier if guns were more like cars.

Comments:

Source for D:

http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2013-01-22/news/os-law-enforcement-access-databases-20130119_1_law-enforcement-officers-law-enforcers-misuse

They Say: "Imposing magazine/clip limits would save lives" and/or "We should ban high-capacity magazines."

You Say:

A: A shooter can swap out a magazine in two or three seconds. Watch this video to see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjnsBH9jGxc>

B: Why wouldn't a shooter just carry a bag of handguns, then? No need to reload them, just keep firing.

C: Ask Canadian gun owners. In Canada, semi-auto rifles are limited to 5 rounds and handguns to 10 rounds. They also need to present a firearms license to

purchase ammo. This hasn't stopped local biker gangs from getting prohibited (armor-piercing) ammo and firearms (Mac-10's, etc.). The theory behind the law was that crooks would have to reload sooner and more often thus giving cops a chance to take them out. The problem is, crooks don't use the legal mags, never have. They either get full capacity magazines illegally, drill out the rivet from legal mags (thus making them full mags), or make their own.

D: [If they use the word "clips" instead of "magazines"] Clips? You mean magazines? You can't even get the terminology right, it's obvious you know nothing about guns. If you knew what you were talking about, you'd know that the size of the magazine doesn't really matter all that much, because they can be swapped out so quickly. And in fact larger magazines typically jam more easily, so the case can be made that the larger magazines actually are safer.

E: What is stopping a criminal from simply using one of the tens of millions of magazines already in circulation? And do you know how easy it is to make a large magazine out of two smaller ones? Again, your proposition only inconveniences responsible gun owners who already follow the law, and does nothing to stop criminals who by definition choose to break it.

F: Most gun deaths are suicides, so how will reducing magazine capacity do anything to stop the vast majority of gun deaths?

G: What constitutes a "high-capacity" magazine? Who was the "expert" who made that decision? The AR-15/M-16, for example, was developed to use a 20-round magazine. Later, a 30-round magazine was made for use as well. So, these "high-capacity" magazines are in fact standard capacity magazines.

H: There comes a point where if you keep insisting on making unreasonable and unenforceable laws, like this one you propose, then people are simply going to ignore them. In 2015, Los Angeles put a law in place mandating city residents owning "high capacity" magazines had to turn them in to police or otherwise

dispose of them within 60 days. At the end of 60 days, guess how many got turned in? ZERO.

<http://www.ammoland.com/2015/11/los-angeles-bans-highcap-mags-not-1-turned-in/#axzz3sMz8vSst>

I: There is no crime you can commit with three 30-round magazines that you can't commit with nine 10-round magazines. The only person for whom it makes a difference is someone trying to defend himself from multiple assailants.

J: Practically any car on the road today can go twice the speed limit. Do you propose that they only manufacture cars that can only do 60 mph?

They Say: “Assault weapons’ are the weapon of choice for mass killers.”

You Say:

A: Did you know that, according to the FBI, more people are killed each year in the U.S. with hammers and clubs than with rifles? In 2011, there were 323 murders committed with a rifle but 496 murders committed with hammers and clubs.

B: They were also the defense weapon of choice for Los Angeles Korean-American shopkeepers, who successfully warded off looting and burning of their shops using AR-15s and AK-47s (as well as other guns) during the 1992 Rodney King riots, when the police were nowhere to be found. Their businesses stood while all the others around them were burned to the ground.

C: Not really. The worst school massacre in U.S. history was perpetrated without a gun. The Bath school massacre, wasn't done with guns at all, but with a pickup truck full of explosives. 38 kids and 6 adults were murdered. Let's not fool ourselves, and let's not lose focus, the guns are not the primary root cause here. It's sick, twisted, evil people who are hell-bent on doing harm.

D: Not really. The 2007 Virginia Tech massacre, the deadliest shooting incident by a single gunman in U.S. history and one of the deadliest by a single gunman worldwide, was perpetrated not with a so-called "assault weapon" but simply with two handguns--a .22-caliber Walther P22 semi-automatic handgun and a 9 mm semi-automatic Glock 19 handgun.

Comments:

Source for A:

<https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-11>

Sources for B:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1992_Los_Angeles_riots#Riots_and_the_Korean_American_community

<http://www.npr.org/2012/04/27/151526930/korean-store-owner-on-arming-himself-for-riots>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6tmD0W5r4w>

Source for C:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_School_disaster

Source for D:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Tech_shooting

They Say: "Banning assault rifles would save lives"
and/or "We should ban assault weapons."

You Say:

A: Assault RIFLES are fully automatic weapons, I don't think you know what you're talking about, almost no one owns those as they aren't available to the average person. Do you mean "assault weapons"? The term made up by anti-gunners? You know, "sporting rifles," otherwise known as "semi-automatic rifles"?

B: The majority of gun crime is committed with handguns. Not that handguns should be banned either, but if you are really interested in saving lives, you should be more concerned about handguns than sporting rifles.

C: Whenever there's a mass shooting, they want to take away the guns from the people *who didn't do it*.

D: Assault rifles are already almost entirely banned--it's very difficult, though not impossible, to own one. What do you mean exactly? [Forcing opponent to define terms, which he will not be able to do, or will do so wrongly. You can then set him straight, thus demonstrating your better knowledge of the subject. His credibility takes a hit.]

E: Charles C.W. Cooke recently addressed this topic:

"It is difficult to overstate just how absurd this is. Even if we were to swallow whole the novel set of definitions that the advocates of "assault"-weapons legislation have imposed upon our national deliberations, the case in favor of their coveted laws would remain all but nonexistent. Between 1994 and 2004, Americans were flatly barred from purchasing or transferring 660 arbitrarily selected semi-automatic firearms and from obtaining any magazine that could hold more than ten rounds. This prohibition had no discernible impact whatsoever. Charged in 1997 with

evaluating the short-term impact of the measure, the National Institute of Justice reported bluntly that “the evidence is not strong enough for us to conclude that there was any meaningful effect (i.e., that the effect was different from zero).” A second study – commissioned to coincide with the ban’s expiration in 2004 – calmly echoed this conclusion, while noting for the record that there hadn’t been much of a problem in the first instance. No subsequent inquiry has contradicted these assessments.”

F: If you believe so-called “assault weapons” should be banned, you’re in the minority. According to a December 2015 *New York Times* poll, for the first time in 20 years the majority of Americans oppose bans on “assault weapons.”

https://twitter.com/patrick_j_eagan/status/675127990620131329

Comment:

Anti-gunners are typically unknowledgable about the precise terms used to describe different classes of firearms, so it is good to attack that weakness. Nowhere is this more evident than in their use of the terms “assault rifle” and “assault weapon.” As mentioned above, “assault rifle” is the term used to describe true military combat rifles, which typically are select-fire (semi, burst, full auto). Hardly any private citizen owns any of these rifles. On the other hand, “assault weapon” is a neologism created by anti-gun faction to make common semi-auto rifles that happen to cosmetically look like assault rifles sound dangerous.

“Prior to 1989, the term ‘assault weapon’ did not exist in the lexicon of firearms. It is a political term, developed by anti-gun publicists to expand the category of ‘assault rifles.’” --Bruce H. Kobayashi and Joseph E. Olson, writing in the *Stanford Law and Policy Review*

“Sporting rifle” is one alternative term that a pro-gunner can use instead of “assault weapon,” although this terms misses the point that “assault weapons” are often used for hunting and self-defense too, as well as for sport. The term “semi-auto rifle” often suffices and is probably the most honest descriptive term.

At any rate, when you hear your anti-gun opponent use the term "assault rifle" or "assault weapon," insist that he define his terms, and it will be quickly evident to the audience that he doesn't know what he's talking about, which will undermine his authority and credibility to speak on the subject, which in turn will weaken further arguments he makes on other gun-related matters.

If he says "It doesn't matter what they're called, we need to get rid of 'em," don't let him get away with that--of COURSE it matters what they're called, there's a big difference in availability between true automatic rifles and semi-auto ones! Few people in the U.S. can own a true assault rifle! Emphasize that "that's what's wrong with you anti-gunners, you create unworkable laws based on incorrect ideas and faulty knowledge, and then you wonder why there's so much resistance to them."

If he then says "Well, okay, you're right, I guess I mean semi-auto rifles, they all should go," then you point out that semi-auto behavior is the default behavior of the great majority of firearms: semi-auto rifles, semi-auto handguns, double-action revolvers, semi-auto shotguns. So what he's truly advocating is a near-complete ban on almost ALL commonly used firearms, and he's not being intellectually honest. Also, the Supreme Court in *Heller* has protected firearms "in common use."

General references for above:

<http://ccd1.us/blog/2013/01/13/the-truth-about-assault-weapons/>

<http://www.preciseshooter.com/assaultweapon>

Source for E:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/425229/assault-weapons-the-gun-controller-s-phony-war-charles-c-w-cooke?target=author&tid=23105>

They Say: "Assault weapons have no legitimate self-defense uses."

You Say:

A: Well, the Department of Homeland Security disagrees with you. The Department has a requirement for a 5.56x45mm NATO, select-fire firearm--what you would call an "assault weapon"--because it's, and I quote, "suitable for *personal defense use in close quarters* and/or when maximum concealment is required." The only differences are that they call it a "personal defense weapon" instead of the made-up term "assault weapon," and their version gets to shoot multiple shots per trigger pull, unlike anything available to U.S citizens.

B: Assault weapons? You mean sporting rifles? On the contrary, these were the defense weapons of choice for Los Angeles Korean-American shopkeepers, who successfully warded off looting and burning of their shops using AR-15s and AK-47s (as well as other guns) during the 1992 Rodney King riots, when the police were nowhere to be found. Their businesses stood while all the others around them were burned to the ground.

C: Here's a list of reasons why these rifles are good for self-defense situations:

1. You can mount a light, red dot sight and/or a laser to the rifle to make it easy to use and aim during the day or night.
2. They have a reasonable recoil, making the gun easier to shoot as compared to a defense-caliber shotgun or pistol.
3. They can be customized to fit a variety of body types and shooting styles. They can be configured and adjusted for different shooting distances (less than 5 yards to more than 200 yards).
4. The .223/5.56 self-defense round is appropriate for use within a home, even in an urban environment. Ballistic experts have found rounds from these calibers "dump energy" quickly and break apart or [begin to tumble after](#)

[penetrating the first barrier](#). Will rifle rounds go through walls? You bet. Will pistol calibers like 9mm, .40 and .45 go through walls? You bet. Will shotgun rounds go through walls? You bet. That said, there is significant evidence the .223/5.56 self-defense rounds penetrate no more than, and often less than, traditional handgun calibers and many shotgun rounds.

5. A rifle is much more capable of stopping a threat as compared to a pistol.
6. Semi-automatic rifles are more accurate than a pistol or shotgun.
7. Ammunition is (normally) readily available and (normally) priced within reason.
8. In addition to standard-capacity (30 round) magazines that are typically sold with the gun, high-capacity magazines are also available for these (and other) semi-automatic rifles. In a self-defense situation, you want to avoid manipulating the weapon at all except for pulling the trigger straight back.

Comments:

Sources for A:

<http://radioviceonline.com/department-of-homeland-security-sport-rifle-ar-15-suitable-for-personal-defense/>

<https://www.fbo.gov/utills/view?id=09c3d5e933bc24416b752b57294a17b3> (PDF)

Sources for B:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1992_Los_Angeles_riots#Riots_and_the_Korean_American_community

<http://www.npr.org/2012/04/27/151526930/korean-store-owner-on-arming-himself-for-riots>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6tmD0W5r4w>

Source for C:

<http://radioviceonline.com/department-of-homeland-security-sport-rifle-ar-15-suitable-for-personal-defense/>

[Editor's note: I need to source additional information from the fbi statement here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZo4hbGjVI>]

They Say: "Assault weapons aren't used for hunting, why do you need them?"

You Say:

A: These types of firearms are used all the time for hunting. You can use them to hunt anything you'd normally hunt with with a .22 or .223 round. You can also get them chambered in larger rounds too. Check it out on the web, there are dozens of sites that talk about hunting with AR-15's and such.

B: The nice thing about hunting with AR-15's is that many AR's allow you change calibers by switching out the upper receiver and bolt carrier group. This flexibility makes the AR one of the most versatile rifles there is for hunting all manner of game. Smaller rounds take smaller game, and larger rounds take larger game. So you don't have to buy a different gun for different game, just certain parts.

Comments:

Source for A and B: <http://www.alloutdoor.com/2013/06/12/hunting-ar-15/>

They Say: "All guns should be sold with smart technology, where only the owner can shoot the gun."

You Say:

A: When law enforcement adopts these so-called "personalized handguns," maybe then I'll consider using them. The problem with smart guns is that the guns have to

perform at a high level. It can't be 99 percent reliable. It has to be 100 percent reliable. It has to work every single time. So far police are skeptical.

B: Reliability is a concern. Do I have to keep my gun charged for it to work? How often do you go to use flashlight and you find out the batteries are dead? You're asking me to replace simple and proven technology with complex and unproven in a mission-critical setting.

C: Those guns are fragile. The more technology, the more things can go wrong when you need it the most. Regular guns are pretty simple, dependable, mechanical designs.

D: Those guns are too expensive for most people to afford. The added electronics easily increases the price by 400 percent.

E: Places like New Jersey have laws in place that state that once such technology comes to market ANY place in the country, ALL new gun sales in the state have to be with smart technology. That's why there's opposition. It falls into the anti-gunners' agenda. We don't want all regular guns banned ANYWHERE because this new technology is on the market.

F: So far, they've only made those guns in calibers too small to be used for self-defense (.22 caliber). The technology is far from ready.

G: So, let's say you have a smart gun and you need to wear a bracelet to make it work. Isn't the bracelet just a kind of key? We already have gun locks. We already have retention holsters. What function does the bracelet add that a regular lock and key doesn't offer? In the case of a stolen gun, is there NO way to get the gun working without the bracelet? Seems like there are a lot of hackers out there who would jump at the chance to break the digital security. Or, there must still be a mechanical link between trigger and hammer. Glue the actuator that interrupts this link in the active position. There are a lot of questions about how the technology would actually work in practice.

H: Let's see if the police adopt these guns. You don't think it's possible to develop a jamming device to inactivate such a gun? There are patents out there for smart-gun jamming devices. A simple battery operated device will block the signal from the watch. Cops will be sitting ducks for criminals ambushing them for guns and ammo. General purpose jammers are already sold on internet.

I: This technology doesn't stop suicides any more than a regular gun lock and key would.

J: There are times when you want more than one person to be able to quickly access and fire a gun. Like, say, in a home invasion scenario, you don't want to be wasting time trying to pass the activating bracelet on to another guy. You just want to hand him a gun.

K: I have nothing against smart gun technology, I'm just not interested in it and I don't want it forced on me. Nor do I want my firearms buying options to be limited to either smart gun or *no* gun. I would CONSIDER buying a smart gun after the police, the army, the marines and the secret service all switch to smart guns and all issue glowing reports regarding their use.

L: The genius design of a gun is its simplicity and reliability. The addition of electronics just complicates matters unnecessarily.

M: If and when I NEED my gun, the last thing I want to see when I pick it up is a message saying, "Low battery. Please charge."

N: This is a solution in search of a problem. And it's not the only solution available. Want to open carry and not have to worry about your firearm being unholstered by others? Get a better holster. Want to protect your firearms from theft? Store them in a gun safe when you're not at home. You can pick a smart safe if you feel like it. Want to protect your family members from negligent discharge? Teach them about firearm safety once they're old enough. If they aren't old enough to be taught then

don't store your weapons where they can get to them. AND don't neglect those same children for so long that they have time to get to where you have them stored.

O: Let's say for the smart gun to work you have to wear a special bracelet or watch on your wrist. This will instantly paint you as a target. Everyone will know that you're the guy with the gun. Also, for the few corrupt police officers out there, they may be able to identify that you're carrying and hassle you, or even worse, kill you and argue that it was justified while they get a paid vacation. Wearing that watch is like wearing a "SHOOT ME" sign on your back.

Comments:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/smart-guns-60-minutes-lesley-stahl/>

A very good article on the impracticality of smart guns:

<http://techcrunch.com/2016/01/05/why-obamas-smart-gun-push-will-misfire/>

Source for A:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/renewed-push-for-smart-guns-could-trigger-a-new-furor-over-the-technology/2015/10/21/156451a4-7813-11e5-a958-d889faf561dc_story.html

Source for H:

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2014/05/robert-farago/breaking-smart-gun-maker-files-patent-remote-kill-switch/>

They Say: "We should just ban and/or confiscate all the guns."

You Say:

A: Who's going to go around door to door to do it? Are you volunteering? Get ready, because people will shoot back. There would be a Ruby Ridge scenario every week.

B: What, you're not going to be the one to actually go door-to-door? What are you going to do then, hire someone? You're asking someone else (Police? Military?) to use guns to take guns? If so, that means you not anti-gun, because you'll need the *their* guns to take away other people's guns. In actuality, you are very pro-gun, you just believe that only the government (which is of course so reliable, honest, moral, virtuous, and forward-thinking) should be allowed to have guns.

C: Er, how you gonna do that? There are at least 350 million guns in the United States. There are more guns than people. What is your plan to round them up? Will you be able to round up 50 percent? 10 percent? 10 percent is still 35 million guns. Who's going to pay for all that?

D: Molon Labe, my friend. Molon Labe.

E: It's going to be a strange sort of war when the people without the guns come to take away the guns from the people with the guns.

F: Let's face it, all the reasons you give for why guns should be outlawed don't really make sense. You just don't like guns, and you don't like the idea of private citizens being allowed to own guns. It's not logical with you, it's emotional.

G: Find a way to take all the criminals' guns from them first, then I'll willingly give up my guns.

H: I don't know, man, I don't believe banning guns in any way is going to help gun crime in the States. We've got some of the best smugglers in the world south of our border. Telling law abiding citizens they can't own a firearm while gangs in their area are able to obtain them illegally, as they've been doing all along, does not sit right with me.

I: Why do those who push for stricter controls or oppose guns ignore the lack of criminal prosecution by district attorneys and judges? Existing penalties are too often plea bargained away. Criminals with guns in many or most instances don't have the book thrown at them as they should. They're back on the street after a short detention (slap-on-the-hand justice)!

J: Gun control is not crime control! Pass mandatory criminal control! For using guns in the commission of a crime: No reduced bail, no plea bargains, no reduced sentences, no early release from prison, and minimum state sentencing laws.

K: 350 million guns in the U.S. Let's be totally over-optimistic and say you can get rid of 10,000 a day. That's going to take 96 years. Good luck.

L: Are you a Democrat? Do you like losing elections? Because saying things like that is how you lose elections.

M: There is, assuredly, work to be done on this front: we need a better mental health system (and a better cultural understanding of and approach to mental health disorders). We also need to ruthlessly prosecute straw buyers, corrupt firearm dealers and other criminals that traffic and profit in the illegal gun trade. But as the majority of recent elections shows us, the one thing most Americans are not willing to do is be bullied by dishonest fear mongering gun control groups that can only spread its message by peddling falsehoods.

N: Why don't you work on banning suicide vests, making them illegal? That would seem to be a "common-sense" solution to terrorism. What the European Union needs is common-sense suicide vest control.

P: One reason confiscation won't ever happen is rather cynical: politicians, particularly on the left side of the spectrum, use gun violence as a mechanism to rally support from their base and a point to paint a divisive line between them and

their opponents. They actually need the controversy generated by this debate to stir passions within their electorate base.

Q: So, in other words, the gun nuts were right? You really are planning to take some or all of their guns? And here you were accusing them of being paranoid.

R: Can you name a prohibition that has actually worked in the US? Drugs? Alcohol? Online gambling?

S: If people started an arson terrorist group, would you look for gasoline to be restricted? "If only it was harder for crazy people to get gasoline, we'd all be better off. If people had to wait 30 days for gas, there wouldn't be arson." Yes, I know that you need your car to get places, but that's your problem, not mine, I have my own need for my firearms, and your needs don't outweigh mine in importance.

Comments:

Source for L and M is taken from the following link:

<http://www.trialofthecentury.net/2015/11/06/the-truth-about-gun-culture/>

M is an almost exact quote with some minor word changes.

Credit for N:

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2015/11/robert-farago/quote-of-the-day-a-common-sense-solution-to-terrorist-methodology/>

They Say: "Repeal the 2nd Amendment!"

You Say:

A: Go ahead and try. Stop talking about it and do it. You've got your work cut out for you.

B: Dude. Think about what you're saying. *You want to repeal one of the original articles in the Bill of Rights.* Do you have any inkling how seismic an event that would be?

C: Even if you manage to repeal the 2nd on a federal level, you then have to contend with the constitutions of individual states, many of which explicitly affirm the right for citizens to keep and bear arms, usually in even more explicit terms than the 2nd Amendment does.

D [More detailed than above, but the same message]: Frankly, I'm tired of all the talk about whether or not the 2nd Amendment should be repealed. It's all talk, and I've heard too much talk. It's time for action one way or another. Want the 2nd repealed? Get to work! Roll up the sleeves. Put the money where the mouth is! It's going to be a ton of hard work! You'll have to do a ton of grassroots organizing. You'll have a lot of hard work in store lobbying Congress. Be prepared for decades of work, since that's how long it will take to go through the process, what with getting the number of states needed to ratify it. Whichever party endorses the process, be prepared to lose a ton of support, since a little less than 50% of Americans of all political persuasions own guns. The ACLU isn't going to like you going door-to-door to confiscate the weapons. Sure, there are probably between 20 and 30 million Americans who would rather fight a civil war than let you into their houses. Sure, there is no historical precedent in America for the mass confiscation of a commonly owned item — let alone one that was until recently constitutionally protected.

E: Once you DO get it repealed, then you have to worry about all those state constitutions that independently ensure the right to bear arms! You'll have to get most of those repealed too! That's going to take some time and money. Then in the end, if you're successful, people are going to shoot back when you come to confiscate their guns! That won't be pleasant.

Or you could work yourself into a conniption, flail around shouting "Repeal the 2nd Amendment!" to make a big noise, and then promptly forget about it all a day or two later. Which is what will happen in all likelihood.

F: There's an old saying: Be careful not to tear down an old wall until you understand the reason it was built in the first place. Are you sure you want to tear down the 2nd Amendment without really understanding why it was put in place?

G: Of course, the 2nd Amendment doesn't endow the right; the right is pre-existing, a natural right. The 2nd Amendment just affirms that the federal government won't infringe on the right.

H: I legitimately fear the day this might happen. Not just because of the loss of guns, but primarily because it removes the current precedent that the Bill of Rights is absolutely untouchable. And then of course there is the possibility of at least a couple states seceding from the Union over something like that.

I: SHALL NOT BE INFRINGED.

J: No one's taking my precious family heirlooms.

K: This is the type of amendment that would need to pass to repeal the 2nd. What are the chances you think it would pass?

Amendment XXVIII

Section 1. The Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

Section 2. The Fourth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby suspended until such time as any and all firearms, related implements, ammunition, and destructive devices as defined at 26 U.S.C. § 5845 are collected from the people without warrant, which implements shall then be rendered fully inoperative and then destroyed outright. The Congress shall tender fair market value remuneration to every owner for the items seized.

Section 3. Upon ratification of this article the manufacture, sale, or transportation of firearms within, the importation thereof into, or the exportation thereof from the United States and all the territory subject to the jurisdiction thereof for any purposes is hereby prohibited.

Section 4. The Congress and the several States shall have concurrent power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation as well as police, agency, and military action.

Section 5. This article shall be inoperative unless it shall have been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution by the legislatures of the several States, as provided in the Constitution, within seven years from the date of the submission hereof to the States by the Congress.

I: Well, at least you're being honest in calling for a direct repeal, we pro-gun rights people can respect that at least. What we fear more is not a direct repeal, but the slow defanging of the 2nd by slippery-slope regulations and restrictions, a chiseling away of our rights, a little bit here, a little bit there. If there ever comes a day when the 2nd Amendment--or ANY article in the Bill of Rights--is there in name only and has lost its power and relevancy in jurisprudence--when what we say we believe in and what we do are contradictions--let me know, because that means the rule of law has broken down altogether and I will need my guns all the more. Because in that sort of society, might makes right.

Comments:

For reference:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/node/423183/%E2%80%9Chttp%3A/t.co/cKR0Nk4Uwm%E2%80%9D> . Some of the text above is an exact quote from this article.

They Say: “Our representatives in Washington would vote for gun control bills, but they are afraid of the NRA” and/or “Our representatives in Washington are bought by the huge amounts of NRA money” and/or “The NRA is a just a lobbying organization for gun manufacturers.”

You Say:

A: That’s why I send in my yearly dues to them.

B: Actually, the NRA is sort of like NPR--member supported.

C: You think the NRA is bad? You should see about some of the other rabid pro-gun organizations. The GOA, the NAGR, the GRAA, the SAF--these groups make the NRA look like a Sunday school prayer group.

D: Not sure what you're trying to say. You think there's no big money on the anti-gun side? Do you know how much Michael Bloomberg pours into elections and gun control? He said he'd put up to 50 million bucks into the fight! That far outspends the NRA! And he’s just one guy!

E: There’s plenty of money coming from the anti-gun side. In the 2013 Colorado state recall elections, which were all about gun control, Michael Bloomberg alone contributed \$350,000 to fight the recalls, about equal to the \$361,000 contributed by the NRA, about \$3 per NRA member in the state. Another wealthy guy gave

\$250,000 to oppose the recalls. They outspent the NRA 8 to 1. (Didn't matter. The anti-gun senators got booted anyway.) In 2015, Everytown for Gun safety spent \$1.6 million just in the state senate race. They also spent \$583,377 in support of gun control candidate Daniel Gecker. Gabby Gifford's anti-gun group also spent \$40,000 on Gecker. There are countless more examples, but the point is that there is big money on the anti-gun side, often more than the NRA contributes.

F: Gun control groups outspent gun rights advocates by \$5.1 million to \$2.8 million in 2014 elections, with Everytown contributing \$4.4 million, according to the nonpartisan National Institute on Money in State Politics in Helena, Montana.

G: Despite what the anti-gunners say, the NRA and pro-gunners are sometimes willing to compromise in the legislatures, IF the anti-gunners are willing to give something in return. For example, it was rumored that the NRA was willing to drop its opposition the Manchin-Toomey universal background check bill of 2013 IF the gun-control proponents would drop the requirements for a registry. They were not willing to do so, and so the bill died in the Senate. During the same time period, the NRA also signed on to a bipartisan mental health bill and was talking to senators about gun trafficking legislation.

Comments:

References:

<http://money.cnn.com/news/cnnmoney-investigates/nra-funding-donors/>

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2012/08/15/a-guide-to-the-nra-s-money-and-how-it-s-spent.html>

Source for D:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/16/us/bloomberg-plans-a-50-million-challenge-to-the-nra.html?_r=0

Sources for E:

<http://volokh.com/2013/09/11/colorado-recalls-explained/>

http://www.richmond.com/election/article_0359a2b1-3dac-5aa7-b6a1-50b89e6880d2.html

Source for F:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/02/us-usa-election-virginia-idUSKCN0SR1AG20151102>

Source for G:

<http://firstread.nbcnews.com/news/2013/03/12/17286635-sources-nra-wont-opp-ose-background-check-deal-if-democrats-cede-tough-records-fight>

They Say: “The NRA is a terrorist organization” and/or
“The NRA has millions of people's blood on their hands.”

You Say:

A: Beyond their political activities, the NRA actually provides all sorts of services related to gun ownership, including teaching about gun safety. Are you against gun safety?

B: The NRA has somewhere between four and five million members. Are you saying that each of these individuals is a terrorist? Honestly, are you suggesting that five million law-abiding, mostly patriotic Americans who are openly and lawfully exercising one of their Constitutional rights are *terrorists*?

C: According to a recent Gallup poll, 58 percent of Americans support the NRA. Looks like your viewpoint is in the minority.

<http://www.gallup.com/poll/186284/despite-criticism-nra-enjoys-majority-support.aspx>

D: If suddenly there was nobody willing to stand up for the systematic removal of free speech and other rights, know that the NRA stood up to preserve the right to access the tools needed to reclaim them. Certainly it is the one article in the Bill of Rights that the ACLU won't fight for.

E: Generally speaking, the NRA represents the views of tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of people in the U.S. One problem with you anti-gunners is that they suffer from being somewhat insulated from the breadth and depth of American society. When you say stuff like this just shows that you and people with opinions like yours are really insulated in their own little world and have no real connection to the millions of Americans unlike themselves. In gun culture [note: see [this comment](#) on the term], the NRA's political activities are actually very rarely in the minds of its members and its pool of potential members. The NRA is first and foremost known for its gun safety courses it sponsors, its Youth Field days, its support for riflery sports and such, its financial support of sportsmen's clubs, and a thousand other things. People not acquainted with this way of life see the NRA as this monolith, but it's not.

F: First of all, terrorism is a huge deal. Like, shot-on-sight-level bad. The NRA hasn't even broken the law, much less committed crimes against the Geneva convention. Second of all, advocacy for violence is not in itself terrorism. By that logic all communists or military interventionists are terrorists. In order for this type of expression to be terrorism, there has to be incitement to imminent violent acts. The NRA doesn't order hits on people, so that's not terrorism. Third of all, the NRA advocates for violence in self-defense, which some would even say is a human right and is completely legal. It would be ridiculous to consider someone terrorist for shooting at his attacker.

G: The NRA uses money and political lobbying to promote ease of access to weapons, but it does not use violence to do so. You can disagree with them and their motives, but you can't possibly call them a terrorist organization.

H: To be a terrorist/terrorist organization, you have to actually use violence or threats of violence to accomplish your goals. The NRA uses letters, signs, and other forms of political activism. However, never in any of their campaigns do they advocate that their members use or threaten violence against anyone.

I: Here's the irony that the control movement seems to miss: the NRA gets stronger every time it tries to get new gun restrictions enacted. You really want the NRA to go away and become totally irrelevant? Stop trying to infringe on 2nd Amendment rights.

J: You don't often see terrorist organizations sponsoring safety programs with the goal of keeping young people from getting harmed: <https://eddieeagle.nra.org/>

Comments:

The political side of the NRA gets all the hate, but as noted above, the NRA is much more than that. Its firearm safety courses and instructional programs in particular set the standard in the U.S. Unfortunately the NRA is so demonized by anti-gunners (who equate the entire organization with its political arm) that the organization isn't able to provide outreach in all times and places where it would be helpful. For instance, Eddie Eagle's "Stop! Don't touch! Call an adult!" instruction for kids might have helped prevent this tragedy:

<http://www.fox2detroit.com/news/local-news/45467269-story> . Older gun owners remember a time when the NRA was not seen as such a villain, when (for example) such Eddie Eagle instruction was sponsored in public schools by the NRA. Nowadays it is very likely that parents would have seizures if they heard that the NRA was invited to talk to their kids at school about gun safety, at least in many portions of the country. Such are the times we live in.

They Say: “The NRA [gun lobby] stands in the way of improvements in the background check system. They want even insane people to have guns” and/or “We need mental health history to be included in background checks.”

You Say:

A: I think what you’re thinking of are actually HIPAA regulations, which prevent people’s medical records from being accessed by the government due to privacy concerns. This prohibition is something the left-wing ACLU supports. The fact that both conservatives and liberals are wary points to the fact that changes to privacy laws are complex and controversial. Any rational person agrees that the mentally ill should not be able to legally purchase firearms. But just try to share that data with the FBI and see how many attorneys come out of the woodwork.

B: Let’s learn from history. Let’s look at the Soviet Union. The Soviets needed only to have a state doctor say a patient was insane if they didn’t agree with the government’s position and have them locked up. How far from that would be using corrupt doctors working for corrupt officials to report to NICS to restrict your gun ownership?

C [Same message as B, but more detailed]: There was systematic political abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union, based on the interpretation of political opposition or dissent as a psychiatric problem. It was called “psychopathological mechanisms” of dissent. During the leadership of General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev, psychiatry was used to disable and remove from society political opponents (“dissidents”) who openly expressed beliefs that contradicted the official dogma. The term “philosophical intoxication,” for instance, was widely applied to the mental disorders diagnosed when people disagreed with the country’s

Communist leaders and, by referring to the writings of the Founding Fathers of Marxism–Leninism -- Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, and Vladimir Lenin -- made them the target of criticism. Article 58-10 of the Stalin-era Criminal Code, "Anti-Soviet agitation," was to a considerable degree preserved in the new 1958 RSFSR Criminal Code as Article 70 "Anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda." In 1967 a weaker law, Article 190-1 "Dissemination of fabrications known to be false, which defame the Soviet political and social system," was added to the RSFSR Criminal Code. These laws were frequently applied in conjunction with the system of diagnosis for mental illness, developed by academician Andrei Snezhnevsky. Together they established a framework within which non-standard beliefs could easily be defined as a criminal offence and the basis, subsequently, for a psychiatric diagnosis.

D: I'm really really skeptical of requiring sanity tests to exercise my Constitutional right. Some anti-gun people say that by definition anyone who wants a gun is mentally deficient!

E: That will be a deterrent to people seeking mental health help! If you think you might lose your guns if you seek treatment, you're far less likely to ask for help! Totally counterproductive.

F: You are already prohibited from owning a gun if you're a felon or have been adjudicated to be mentally ill, or involuntarily committed to a mental hospital (depending on the state). There are already safeguards in place to prevent mentally ill people from passing background checks.

G: Where do you draw the line? If someone was put on Prozac 20 years ago for an episode of depression, does that mean he still isn't allowed to own a gun today, even if he's doing fine now? If not, why is allowed to operate other dangerous equipment like cars? Who will adjudicate whether or not a person is mentally healthy? Doctors are not judges--they can't make the call themselves to deny a person his civil right. At least I don't want them to be able to. I want due process!

H: Not true at all. For one, there are no “NRA-backed bills.” The NRA cannot directly introduce legislation to Congress, obviously. Now, there are continual attempts to improve the NICS background check process with regard to mental health. See for example the *NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007*. In 2015, Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) introduced a bill that would improve access to mental health treatment and give states more incentive to send the National Instant Criminal Background Check System the names of people whose mental illness disqualifies them from gun ownership. The point is, despite what you imply, mentally ill people being properly denied the purchase of firearms is a matter that is very much being actively discussed.

I: You have to remember that the great majority of so-called “mentally ill” people are non-violent. Why do we wish to further stigmatize them in the eyes of society by putting them on FBI lists and such when they may not even ever wish to harm another person or even purchase a gun?

Comments:

Language for C taken from:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Political_abuse_of_psychiatry_in_the_Soviet_Union

Sources for H:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NICS_Improvement_Amendments_Act_of_2007

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ180/pdf/PLAW-110publ180.pdf> (PDF)

They Say: We should ban “armor-penetrating” or “cop-killing” bullets.

You Say:

A: So, once again we have a case where the anti-gunners who want to ban this or that have no idea what they're talking about. Most *all* rifle bullets will penetrate most types of body armor. There is no special category of ammunition you can point to and say, "If we just got rid of that particular brand, no cops would ever die again."

B: The ATF has a very precise definition of what "armor-piercing" means. It is already banned for most private use.

C: What problem are you trying to solve? So-called armor piercing ammo hasn't been used in a crime, ever.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2015-03-12/what-you-need-to-know-about-the-armor-piercing-bullet-controversy>

Comments:

[Need source for B]

They Say: "We should impose universal background checks" and/or "Congress should expand background checks to include all private gun sales."

You Say:

A: So-called "universal" background checks are toothless without a centralized, national registry--and a registry is a non-starter for gun owners. Think it through! A person can buy a gun, and as long as they pass the background check, they get the gun. If they sell it to someone without them undergoing another background check--how will the authorities ever know, unless all guns are registered?

B: Furthermore, once a criminal has a gun in his hands, he can just scratch off the serial number before giving or selling it to another criminal. The only effect of a

universal background check is to make buying and owning a gun a bigger inconvenience than it already is.

C: Yet again, another proposed law that criminals will easily ignore, and law-abiding gun owners, in following, will face the burden, the expense, and the further loss of their civil liberties.

D: Focusing on forcing universal background checks distracts from a system that would actually work: open NICS to the public. [more info about Coburn Amendment here]

E: It's really no one's business, including the Government, how I exercise my fundamental rights. They just don't need to know what I do, as long as what I'm doing is lawful.

F: The vast majority of preemptive laws have very little, if any real effect on limiting gun violence. Background checks are entirely based on the theory that past behavior is an accurate predictor of future behavior. Since the establishment of the federal background check system, the vast majority of rampage mass shooters had [recently passed a background check](#) before obtaining the firearms used in the shooting incident. (Notable exceptions include the Newtown and Columbine shooters.) Background checks are not nearly the cure-all that almost all gun control advocates seem to believe.

G: Why do we need more background checks when we can't even correctly use the ones we perform now? One major issue is the near total lack of enforcement for perjury on application forms for background checks. In 2010 alone, [76,142 fraudulent ATF Form 4473 applications](#) were submitted. Only 4,732 of these cases were referred to law enforcement agencies, and less than 62 of those resulted in arrest and prosecution. Only 13 were found guilty or plead guilty. That means slightly under one-tenth of 1% of those illegally attempting to purchase a firearm from a licensed gun seller were even charged with a crime, let alone prosecuted for it.

H: With universal background checks, I could not buy a gun and give it as a gift to my adult son. Not without both of us filling out a bunch of forms. I could not inherit my grandfather's gun collection without inventory and government notification. I could not purchase my neighbor's shotgun without massive government intervention.

I: It's worth noting that almost every recent mass shooter has passed background checks in order to acquire his guns. So if that's the problem you're trying to solve, imposing background checks on private transactions doesn't seem like it's going to do much good.

J: I oppose universal background checks because they go against the Constitution.

K: Here's why universal background checks are undesirable:

- They are largely ineffectual without a registry; this is why the Manchin-Toomey bill failed, the anti-gunners wouldn't drop the requirement for a registry.
- It forces an additional cost into the transaction that is the exercise of a right. It's odd that so many can argue that obtaining an ID for voting is a burden on the poor but don't mind introducing an extra \$35-\$70 dollars on a firearms transaction.
- As far as the Constitution is concerned they seem to be equal and any barrier to either one is a cause for concern.
- The government is now forcing you to do business with a private entity, the Federal Firearms License (FFL) holder, in order to exercise your right. What if I proposed that everyone who wanted to vote needed to go to a privately owned business and spend \$50 to make sure they're not a convicted felon and are legally allowed to vote? We'd be able to hear the screams all the way to Barrow, Alaska and rightly so.
- Political entities will attack FFL holders as a backdoor method of barring the purchase of firearms. Cities, Counties, States, even the Federal government, will introduce burdens on FFL holders so onerous that they simply can't

remain open. This isn't conjecture either, it happened in San Francisco:
<http://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/san-franciscos-last-gun-store-closing-doors-for-good/>

So all of that negative outcome and no one can point to anywhere that UBC will make a noticeable difference in any category of gun violence. Why should we do it? Why should we tolerate the abridgment of a numbered right just to show that "something is being done" when that something will do nothing to solve the problem?

L: Federally licensed firearms retailers will be burdened with having to perform a governmental function (background check on private party transfers). Many proposals mandate that the dealer perform background checks on private party transfers, but cap the fee a dealer can charge. The time and effort necessary to perform the check at government set fee is inadequate to cover the retailer's cost. The retailer must maintain A&D records and the Form 4473 for 20 years. FFL status can be jeopardized by mandatory record keeping requirements imposed by Federal (and State) laws. A retailer could have their FFL revoked for a record-keeping error in the paperwork for a gun they didn't actually sell.

M: Firearms retailers are very concerned that universal background checks will result in very lengthy delays in conducting NICS (the national background check system) checks when they sell a firearm from their inventory. As the system currently is, it simply can't handle a huge increase in volume; delays are growing unacceptably long now even without private party transfers.

N: The current background check system is broken. The background checks that are currently done are not as accurate and complete as they should be. This is because both the Federal government and about half the States have failed to put into NICS (the national background check system) all appropriate records pertaining to prohibited persons, such as mental health records. Universal background checks will simply produce more inaccurate and incomplete checks.

Before we can even talk about requiring background checks on private party transfers, we should fix NICS.

O: What exactly is meant by “universal background check”? Some people insist it applies anytime a firearm is exchanged between any two individuals. Will family transfers be included? Gifts between friends? Inherited firearms? A loan of a firearm to a hunting buddy during a hunting trip? People can get into a lot of trouble when terms are not clearly defined. This was a major issue when Initiative 594 (mandatory universal background checks) was enacted in Washington state. It is still not clear when a person is liable for prosecution there, and as a result it’s not widely enforced, if at all.

P [similar to G above]: Both the Federal and State governments are not prosecuting those who fail a background check when illegally attempting to purchase firearms now. Why would we think the government is any more likely to prosecute criminals who try to illegally obtain a firearm through a private party transfer if they are unwilling to prosecute those who fail checks performed by licensed retailers?

Q: There are at least three problems with so-called “universal background” checks that have been recently pushed by Bloomberg and enacted in places such as Washington and Oregon, and up for vote in 2016 in Nevada.

The first is that they are unenforceable. Law enforcement agencies do not have the manpower to enforce it. And besides, if you are selling a gun that you bought before these laws took effect, all you have to do is to date the bill of sale to the date before the law took effect. No way to prove any different.

The second problem, even more serious, is that unlike the background checks that are currently mandated, the new universal background checks redefine the term “transfer.” Up to this point, “transfer” has simply meant the process when you buy a gun at a dealer, and is synonymous with “transfer of ownership.” The new definition encompasses much more than this, including **physical possession** of a

firearm between people, *not just sales*. This means that under this system, I cannot even temporarily loan you a gun at, say, a firing range, at a gun safety course, to go hunting with, even to defend yourself with in a crisis situation, without violating the law. Of course this type of scrutiny is impossible to enforce, and it's impossible to run down to a firearms dealer every time for a background check every time a gun is physically given to another person, so what this means in practice is that there will be a lot of brand-new criminals who are otherwise law-abiding gun owners in every respect who choose to ignore this law. And why would any real criminals bother to follow the official transfer process when the system is too onerous even for the law-abiding?

The third problem is that universal background checks as crafted by Bloomberg and his "Everytown" organization have "accidentally" banned the possession of handguns by 18-to-20 year-olds in Washington and Colorado (and others) even though by state law they are permitted to own them. This is because under federal law "transfers" must be done at a federally licensed dealer, and federal law prohibits handguns from being transferred to anyone under 21. See: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/11/05/gun-bans-for-persons-under-21-a-hidden-problem-in-everytowns-universal-background-checks/>

R: Background checks will never be "universal" because criminals will never submit to them.

S: The only people who are required to undergo background checks are people who would pass them (see *Haynes v. United States*). Anyone who knows he would fail a background check is excused by the 5th Amendment from having to submit to it. So criminals, terrorists, domestic abusers, and stalkers are exempt. They just can't buy from dealers.

T: We don't need any more unenforceable gun laws. In Washington State, where they imposed mandatory universal background checks in 2015, hardly anyone is complying with the law.

<http://www.king5.com/story/news/2016/01/05/gun-buyers-may-not-be-following-background-check-law/78323388/>

U: Nothing will change until gun laws already on the books are more strictly enforced. There are hardly any prosecutions for people lying on the background check form. Those who are caught typically have the gun charge plead away. The National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) found in 2010, of 6 million Americans who applied to buy a gun, less than 2 percent -- or 76,000 -- were denied. Of those, the ATF referred 4,732 cases for prosecution. Of them, just 44 were prosecuted, and only 13 were found guilty or plead guilty for lying or buying a gun illegally. More laws that aren't enforced are just more laws that don't solve problems.

Comments:

[Editor's note to himself: I need still to find and include the article describing guy who bought a gun in the parking lot in Washington so that he could destroy it, use as example of how easy it is to ignore law.]

Source for F and G:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-illingworth/david-anderson-the-us-doesnt-need-more-gun-control_b_8297922.html

Source for I:

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/03/us/how-mass-shooters-got-their-guns.html>

K is excerpted from this comment:

https://www.reddit.com/r/NeutralPolitics/comments/3purt0/why_do_most_americans_still_have_a_favorable/cwaez29

Sources for Q:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/11/02/how-erytowns-background-check-law-impedes-firearms-safety-training-and-self-defense/>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/11/04/sharing-firearms-for-informal-target-shooting-another-legitimate-activity-outlawed-by-erytowns-universal-background-checks/> It is worth reading these articles in full to get a gist of the detail involved in the danger this law threatens to gun tradition and culture. It's been suggested that universal background checks are actually a veiled attack against gun heritage, since the rules make gun education--the transfer of knowledge and expertise from the old generation to the new--so onerous, if the law is followed.

Source for S: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haynes_v._United_States

Sources for U:

<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2013/02/25/gun-debate-gun-crime-prosecutions-on-decline-amid-call-for-more-laws.html>

<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/bjs/grants/239272.pdf>

They Say: "We need a central [national] registry of guns."

You Say:

A: Registration leads to confiscation. Don't say that it doesn't. New York state, for instance, sent out threatening letters to gun owners about weapons that because of a law change were suddenly illegal. They knew where to find them because the records were in a database. [cite source]

B: Are you willing to make criminals out of the millions of people who don't comply? See what happened in Connecticut and New York when they tried to force people to register their sporting rifles.

C: Sure, then people will know who has the guns, and then they can do things like publish the names and addresses of the gun-owning people [cite example of newspaper that did this]. Not only is this a type of modern, "Scarlet Letter" public shaming, it also tells criminals exactly where the guns are they want to steal.

D: Explain how a central registry would do anything to *prevent* crime.

E: We already have a national registry, it's just not a very efficient one to search. We want to keep it that way.

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/10/26/firearms-national-tracing-center-atf/74401060/>

F: I got news for you, New York, and Connecticut already tried this. Semi-auto rifles registered, ammo background checks, checks on private sales, etc. Compliance on registering in New York was 4%, ammo check still not in place and never will be. It's business as usual, nobody cares about or is following this law. The cops are not enforcing it either.

G: If Canada is any guide, centralized registration of guns doesn't work. They shut down a decade-old Long Gun Registry (rifles & shotguns) when it turned out they were spending millions on a hopelessly inaccurate system that according to the police "never helped solve or prevent a single crime."

H: Centralized registries of firearms are a non-starter. The last thing I want is for some database to get hacked and all information about the guns I own leaked to the internet for thieves and angry anti-gunners to read. Thieves have said that having a map of where guns are located is "like gold." The media has already demonstrated it can't be responsible with such information, as shown when the *Journal-News* published a map of firearm owners in Westchester County.

Comments:

Source for G:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Firearms_Registry

Source for H:

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2013/01/04/ex-burglars-say-newspapers-gun-map-wouldve-made-job-easier-safer/>

They Say: “We should tax guns and/or ammo in order to pay for the societal costs of gun crime.”

You Say:

A: If you tax a fundamental right, is it truly a right?

B: The Founders gave us a list of unalienable rights. Just because people abuse them doesn't mean they are invalid or that we need to infringe upon them. Whatever solution put in place should be directed at the boneheads ruining things for the rest of us.

C: Why do you hate poor people? If you tax guns or ammo at a rate to support societal costs (just like with cigarettes), poor people will not be able to afford to buy guns and ammo to defend themselves. That is a special kind of travesty given that crime is typically higher in poorer neighborhoods.

They Say: “We should rescind the 2005 law that holds firearm manufacturers and sellers harmless for the illegal acts committed with firearms” and/or “The gun industry is totally protected from lawsuits.”

You Say:

A: Uh, do you know what you’re talking about? Actually, the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act lists several situations where gun manufacturers aren’t protected from liability. It doesn’t protect gun dealers who transfer a gun knowing it will be used for criminal purposes. It doesn’t protect those who knowingly break state or federal law if the violation results in harm. Gun manufacturers can also be sued if the gun, if used properly, causes injury because it’s defective. You should try to be better informed before you make such sweeping statements.

B: When a drunk driver smashes into a minivan full of kids, do we hold Subaru responsible for the deaths? Nope. Why should things be any different here? Do you agree that we can sue Toyota and Jack Daniels for DUI deaths?

C: These types of protections aren’t new or unusual. Pharmaceutical companies are held harmless in some cases against injuries caused by vaccines, for example, and online service and service providers like Comcast and Youtube can’t be sued for defamation by their users.

D: No, you’re not getting away with that. What the people advocating removal of “shield laws” actually want is to sue all makers of arms into bankruptcy as a means of disarming society. You’re disingenuously seeking to revoke 2nd Amendment rights by circling around the rear, not straight on.

Comments:

General background information:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protection_of_Lawful_Commerce_in_Arms_Act

Sources for "A" above:

- <http://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2015/oct/16/hillary-clinton/clinton-gun-industry-wholly-protected-all-lawsuits/>
- <https://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42871.pdf>
- <http://www.npr.org/sections/itsallpolitics/2015/10/06/446348616/fact-check-are-gun-makers-totally-free-of-liability-for-their-behavior>

They Say: "No one needs more than x guns. Certainly no one needs an 'arsenal' of six or seven."

You Say:

A: It isn't really about "need." It's about what I'm allowed to do. No, wait, it's not about what I'm allowed to do, it's what my *preexisting natural rights are*.

B: Different guns are used for different things. You can't use the same gun for shooting skeet as you can for riflery, for example. Target practice with pistols is a different sport than Olympic riflery. It's easy to quickly build a collection when you use them for different things.

C: You call that an "arsenal"? Back where I come from, everyone owns ten or twenty guns.

D: Killers only have two hands. After two guns, it really makes no difference how many guns a criminal owns, they can only operate a max of two at a time.

E: It's called the "Bill of Rights," not the "Bill of Needs."

They Say: We should impose a mandatory waiting period for gun purchases.

You Say:

A: For what purpose? If I already own one gun, why should I have to wait for a second or third one? I could easily do as much damage with one as I could with two.

B: The more obstacles you put in front of the process for obtaining a gun, the more it infringes on a very basic Constitutional right.

C: What if a woman has a stalker, and needs a gun to protect herself *right away*? How does a waiting period help her defend herself?

D: As Martin Luther King Jr. said: "A right delayed is a right denied."

They Say: The 2nd Amendment says, "A well-regulated militia . . ." Built right into the 2nd is a call for gun control and central oversight.

You Say:

A: Let's use a modern example easier to understand: "A well-balanced breakfast necessary to the start of a healthy day, the right of the people to keep and eat food shall not be infringed." You see how that works?

B: In Colonial times, "regulated" meant something different. It meant "well organized, properly working, well tuned," just like you see old clocks branded that they are "regulated." It has nothing to do with gun control.

<http://www.constitution.org/cons/wellregu.htm>

C: This is not how the Supreme Court has interpreted the phrase. In *Heller*, there's a very long discussion about why that "prefatory clause" doesn't mean what you think it means.

D: Any honest person who is not illiterate in English and who is intelligent enough to comprehend some basic logic can see that "a well regulated militia" was the motive stated in the Constitution, but the operative right is clearly the second part of the amendment. "The right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The intended meaning is all over the pages of history leading up to the amendment.

E: The 2nd Amendment does not at all call for government control and oversight of gun ownership. A well-regulated militia, in the context of the 2nd, is one that is properly equipped, well-trained and disciplined similar to a regular army. Preventing the government from infringing on the people's right to keep and bear arms is essential for said well-regulated militia to be a well-regulated militia. The people who would serve in the militia would train with arms on their own and serve with their own guns. This is different from an army that is maintained and controlled by the government.

F: "Well regulated" as in "strictly controlled," you mean? How does that meaning jibe with "shall not be infringed"? If it meant "strictly controlled," that would be a direct and utter contradiction in that simple statement.

G: Contemporary writings referred to "well-regulated" households, kitchens, workshops, and even young women (Henry James) and young boys (Anna Leonowens). Neither young women nor young boys were subject to substantial government regulation in the 1800s. The sense of the term is akin to a regulator clock, which keeps good time as one would expect.

They Say: “All gun owners should be forced to pass a gun safety class.”

You Say:

A: While gun safety classes are a great idea and most responsible gun owners favor them, the “mandatory” part is where the problem lies. There can be no intermediary that stands as a gatekeeper between me and a fundamental civil liberty--otherwise it’s not truly a right. You don’t see any possible scenario where giving the government the ability to officially deny a Constitutional right could be subject to abuse? This is not a hypothetical--there are places in the country where government officials wrongly use their authority to unconstitutionally deny firearm permits to people. Watch the undercover videos here: <http://www.nj2as.com/> . This is not how America is supposed to work. It makes criminals out of all manner of otherwise law-abiding people who just want their 2A rights.

B: Do you need to take a mandatory class for your other rights? How about a mandatory voting class? A mandatory free speech class?

They Say: “We should ban all handguns. Rifles we can keep around for the hunters.”

You Say:

A: How well did Prohibition work back when they banned alcohol? How’s that War on Drugs working for you? Drugs are illegal, so I totally can’t buy drugs. Right? And now you’re proposing to create a new Prohibition on handguns?

B: Better bone up on the Constitution and the Federalist Papers. The right to own arms is not about target shooting or hunting. It was to be able to defend ourselves from a tyrannical government when all other alternatives have been tried and failed.

C: I guess you don't realize that handguns can be and are used for hunting. Here's some commentary on it:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/sports/hunting-fishing/2015/11/22/Handgun-hunting-of-deer-not-all-that-simple/stories/201511220110>

They Say: "We should mandate that all new guns support microstamping."

You Say:

A: Why wouldn't criminals just file the head of the firing pin down to erase the microstamp? Pretty easy to do that, or just replace the firing pin altogether. We don't need any more ineffective or unenforceable laws.

B: Why wouldn't a criminal just use a revolver, and therefore leave no microstamped casings on the crime scene? We don't need any more ineffective or unenforceable laws.

C: How does microstamping prevent crime from happening? Even if you had a microstamped empty casing left at the crime scene, how would that help identify who committed the crime? You would have to match the microstamp to the gun, which means *registration*, right?

Comments:

Advocates for microstamping typically know little about how guns work, the difference between semi-auto handguns with their magazines versus revolvers, and so forth. It is wise to attack your opponent on the basis of his or her ignorance of the technology. They often think the identifying microstamp somehow accompanies the bullet, not the casing/primer, and thus have a confused notion of how identifying a gun via microstamp would work (or wouldn't) in practice. They don't

realize that using a revolver in the commission of a crime rather than a semi-auto would be a simple way to circumvent the intention of this law.

They Say: "Your right to own a firearm does not trump my right to feel safe" and/or "The Constitution also guarantees the right to "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness," which trumps your 2nd Amendment rights.

You Say:

A: You need to understand the legal definition of a "right." Unfortunately, there is no "right" to feel safe. There are natural rights, and there are rights that are enumerated in the Constitution . . . you have a right to self-defense. But you do not have a right to feel safe. That is because it is a dangerous world and no one can promise you that you always will feel, let alone be, safe.

B: Your unrealistic need to feel safe does not trump my Constitutional right to actually *be* safe.

C: Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is from the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It has nothing to do with the Constitution of the United States, which is the document upon which we base all our laws.

They Say: "You don't need a gun, the police [the State, the government, etc.] are there to keep you safe."

You Say:

A: No, with a response time in the tens of minutes--hours, for rural areas--the police are only there to clean up the mess afterward.

B: As an American, I take full responsibility for my family's safety. I don't subcontract that responsibility out.

C: I carry a gun 'cause a cop is too heavy.

D: Actually, did you know that, according to the courts, the police are under no Constitutional obligation to keep you safe. See *Warren vs. District of Columbia*. The court ruled, and I quote: "The duty to provide public services is owed to the public at large, and, absent a special relationship between the police and an individual, no specific legal duty exists." In a more recent case, the Manhattan Supreme Court ruled that the city of New York could not be sued after NYPD officers failed to stop a man from being brutally stabbed on a subway, even though the officers were present when the attack occurred. The court again found that the police had "no special duty" to protect citizens as individuals.

E: I do NOT want to live in a country where only government agents are armed. That is, by definition, a police state. Please think: is that *really* what you want?

F: When did people here start to believe rights come from the government, or that the government confers them. There's a name for that philosophy, but it is not a pretty name at all. I have a natural right to life, which entails a right to self-defense. I have a natural right to liberty, which entails the right to revolution if ultimately necessary. Government does not give me those rights but is created to protect my enjoyment of them, via the social contract. Any attempt to take away my natural rights violates the social contract and is grounds for revolution. I know you don't get that, though it used to be taught in all our schools. But millions of us DO understand it.

G: I find it funny and tragic that if you look at who is responsible for the greatest MASS killings in history, the State is unparalleled in lethality.

- In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control: From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- In 1911, Turkey established gun control: From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- Germany established gun control in 1938: From 1939 to 1945, a total of 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.
- China established gun control in 1935: From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- Guatemala established gun control in 1964: From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- Uganda established gun control in 1970: From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- Cambodia established gun control in 1956: From 1975 to 1977, one million educated people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.
- 56 million defenseless people were rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control.

Comments:

Sources for D:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warren_v._District_of_Columbia

http://gothamist.com/2013/07/26/subway_stabbing_victims_suit_against.php

They Say: "You don't need a gun, get a dog instead."

You Say:

A: My gun can't be bribed by a raw steak.

B: My gun isn't neutered.

C: Why can't I have both?

They Say: "Gun ownership and gun culture is dying out in the U.S."

You Say:

A: Gun owners are more reluctant to respond to surveys than they would be in the past, given the environment they live in, reacting to people who are hostile to their guns. This is one reason why surveys and polls show declining gun ownership. But ask any gun safety instructor, ask the rangemaster at your sportsman's club, they'll all tell you there is a rapidly growing number of the gun-owning community. The number of women shooters in particular are growing as women learn to shoot for self-defense and as a hobby, for socializing.

B: Then why does the NRA have more members now than ever before?

C: There are at least 13 million plus concealed carry licensees in the U.S. who have a better record of effective firearms use, safety, and retention than the American law enforcement community. That's more than at any time prior in our history, and the number continues to grow.

D: Even if that's true, which is questionable, something like just a little under a half of the U.S. population owns a gun. So, it's not in any danger of dying out anytime soon.

E: Yeah, that's a frequent claim I hear from the anti-gun crowd. Firearm heritage is far from dying out. In fact, more and more women of all ages, especially in suburban areas, are buying guns and learning how to use them than ever before. More younger people are typically the ones buying your dreaded "assault weapons"

and those old guys in the sticks are still armed with their R700's and 870's while the young generation is busy buying Glocks and ARs for self defense in this crime-ridden world and for plinking, home defense, and hunting. Somewhere between a third to a half of all Americans own guns, the NRA is breaking membership records pushing 5 million dues-paying members, and there are at least 13 million concealed carriers in the U.S. at this time, more than at any other. Further, anecdotally, I see more and more young people and women at the range all the time. Gun culture [note: see [this comment](#) on the term] isn't dying, it's just changing drastically.

F: Perhaps, and if that happens it is fine as it is people freely choosing to not exercise a right. I'm glad we can agree that if this happens it is an acceptable outcome because it retains the recognized right of people to choose to exercise or not to exercise their rights. If it doesn't happen that way I do hope you would continue to respect the rights of all people to choose to undertake their rights or not even if you personally choose not to.

G: Not sure what you mean by gun culture exactly but if you are talking about support for an individual's right to keep and bear arms, according to a recent Pew Research study, more people support gun rights than ever before.
<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/04/17/despite-lower-crime-rates-support-for-gun-rights-increases/>

H: The key to all this is that these numbers are *self-reported*. Of course, why anyone would self-report that he owns valuables and oft-stolen property to a stranger calling on the phone is beyond me. Nor would any prohibited family admit to owning a gun. And first-time shooter classes and gun shops are always full with a younger and and more female crowd. Perhaps the real number is growing faster than a poll will ever capture.

I: I own several guns, many of which are WW2 collectors items. I have THOUSANDS of dollars worth of guns. If someone randomly called me up on the phone and asked if I had guns? I absolutely would not tell them. Would you tell a

stranger on the phone, even if they say it's for a poll, that you have thousands of dollars worth of gold and cash in your house, let alone other collectables electronics and jewelry? Most people won't tell random people on the phone that they have expensive stuff in their houses, because criminals have used that method in the past to find targets to rob.

J: Then why does the Washington Post wonder why there is such strong support from Millennials for gun rights? As the article says:

. . . . does not bode well for liberals hoping that the arc of history will eventually bend toward greater gun control. Poll data about views of gun control and specific gun-control measures are mixed, and responses vary depending how questions are asked. But statements about protecting gun rights generally elicit at least as much support from younger Americans as from older ones. Gallup regularly asks, for example, whether "laws covering the sale of firearms should be made more strict, less strict, or kept as they are now." Over the past two years, about 49 percent of American adults under 35 have said they support "more strict" gun laws, compared with 56 percent of those 55 and older. Two other recent surveys, from the Pew Research Center and The Post/ABC News, also asked about the relative importance of protecting gun rights versus other objectives, such as controlling gun ownership or reducing gun violence. Both found that about half of Americans young and old believe gun rights should take priority.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/millennials-mysterious-support-for-permissive-gun-laws/2015/12/07/5eb9d0c2-9d20-11e5-8728-1af6af208198_story.htm
!

Comments:

The primary source for the "number of gun owners declining" meme seems to be a study from the General Social Survey (<http://www3.norc.umd.edu/gss+website/>) which conducts its polling face-to-face. But the primary point is still valid: in a society

increasingly more hostile to gun ownership, why would anyone self-report to a stranger that they own guns?

On this particular point, your opponent may try to pin you down on actual numbers, because he will have the study mentioned above, while all you have is anecdotal evidence that gun owners are becoming more reluctant to admit to pollsters that they own firearms. How can you refute numbers with anti-numbers? How can you give evidence when the very thing being studied (people owning firearms) refuses to give evidence? You can't. So you need to point to circumstantial evidence like growing NRA membership, personal experiences at the range, and so forth in order to push back against your opponent's attacks. Refer to this article and the comment section for a discussion of this:

<http://www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2013/10/jim-barrett/mythbusting-gun-ownership-decline-u-s/>

Source for A:

<http://www.gopusa.com/news/2014/07/30/shooting-ranges-multiply-in-colorado-following-gun-control-efforts/>

Source for C:

<http://time.com/4101947/hillary-clinton-guns-democrats/>

Sources for E:

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/12/24/why-women-are-buying-more-guns.html>

<http://www.nssfblog.com/new-nssf-report-more-women-owning-guns-going-target-shooting-and-hunting/>

http://www.mlive.com/news/flint/index.ssf/2016/01/increase_in_women_purchasing_guns.html

<http://www.cinewsnow.com/news/local/Women-are-becoming-bigger-players-in-the-gun-industry-367154761.html>

They Say: “Why can’t gun owners just compromise?”

You Say:

A: Usually when anti-gunners talk about “compromise” they propose actions that take rights away from gun owners and give nothing back in return.

B: What if there is no more room to compromise? After all, over the past 50-60 years gun rights have been continually constrained and even removed. See <http://www.everydaynowdaysoff.com/2013/11/08/cake-and-compromise-illustrated-guide-to-gun-control/>

C: Let me ask you something. Is there any anti-gun law about which you’d say “hold on, that’s too much, we have to draw the line there, that infringes too much on gun rights”? If so, what is it exactly?

D: So, every anti-gunner has a different idea of how to stop gun crime. Some want to ban high-capacity magazines, some want to ban just handguns, some want to ban just assault rifles, some want to ban private sales, some want to tax ammunition, some want federal gun registration, so on and so forth. It’s like shaving metal bits off a cannonball. NONE of these individually will do much to lower gun crime, and if you put them all together? Implement them all at once? Push it toward its final conclusion? --What you are left with is a total ban on firearms. That’s why gun owners don’t want to “compromise.” Why would we compromise on X, and then when X doesn’t work, you want Y, and then when Y doesn’t work, you want Z, so on and so forth until there’s nothing left for us? Forget it!

E: There have been plenty of gun control actions in America through the 20th Century. Each one of them took away a little bit more freedom and infringed on the 2nd Amendment a bit more. Gun control advocates were able to do this, because

the restrictions they implemented affected only a relatively small number of gun owners at any one time, and the restrictions were small enough not to cause great discontent. But it's different now: now we're at a point where any next incremental step in gun ownership restrictions will affect not merely thousands, but *millions* of people. That's why you're finding such resistance. There's nothing more to take that large numbers of us--millions and millions--aren't willing to fight you over.

F: Well, let's see. There was the [National Firearms Act of 1934](#), then the [Federal Firearms Act of 1938](#), the [Gun Control Act of 1968](#), the [creation of the ATF in 1972](#), the [Law Enforcement Act Protection Act of 1986](#), the [Gun-Free Schools Act of 1990](#), the [Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1994](#), the [Assault Weapon Ban of 1994](#), (which did nothing to stop crime, by the way, and expired), and the [Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act of 2005](#)--all federal laws designed to restrict the ownership of specific firearm categories, restrict ownership in general, or make us "more safe." That's just on the federal level. Of course, many state laws have also been implemented as a "compromise." The permit process in many states includes high fees, required training, multi-page applications, interviews with officers, interviews with law enforcement administrators, officers visiting your neighbors, yearly reviews, and fingerprinting in booking rooms among other requirements. And you're telling me that gun owners haven't compromised? Whatever happened to "shall not be infringed"?!?

G: How about you "compromise" in order to reduce drunk driving deaths? Since roughly ten or fifteen thousand people are killed by drunk drivers in the US every year, I propose that the government mandate the installation of breathalyzer-based ignition interlocks on all new and currently owned vehicles. Owners will be responsible for the purchase and maintenance of said interlock. It's not a perfect solution, but it's a DAMN sight better than what it was! See how that works?

H: You sound like the typical anti-gun person who wants to have a conversation as long as he/she is the only one talking.

Comments:

For “C” above, typically the anti-gunner will not be knowledgeable enough about gun laws to reply. So, he will have to be quiet or admit his ignorance; either way, it looks like you win the argument.

Also this question exposes his philosophy, because typically there IS no anti-gun law that is severe enough for the anti-gunner to draw the line, because typically he or she just doesn’t like guns, period. So if he DOES respond with an answer, his response will typically reveal that what the anti-gunner favors is complete confiscation--which contradicts his initial demand for “compromise.”

They Say: “Gun-free zones save lives.”

You Say:

A: Maybe *true* gun-free zones do. Those would be the ones where everyone, without exception, is thoroughly searched and run through a metal detector before they enter the area, so that absolutely NO weapons can be brought inside. That way, everyone inside is more or less equal with regard to killing potential (ignoring physicality and physiology, the fact that a huge muscled strong evil guy can then beat up an old granny mercilessly, if she doesn’t have the force equalizer that is a weapon).

But this is rarely done. Usually all you see instead are a couple of lame “no guns” signs that often don’t even meet the requirements to be legal. In such a situation, where weapons are so easily smuggled in due to lack of any kind of security checking, anyone who isn’t armed is at a distinct disadvantage.

B: Let’s face it, there are plenty of weapons in prison. If they can get weapons in there, what’s to stop people from bringing in weapons to a much less secure location?

C: Then why are schools out West and in the South starting to train and arm their teachers?

<http://www.csmonitor.com/USA/USA-Update/2015/1022/Why-a-remote-Idaho-school-is-arming-teachers-with-guns>

D: The problem with gun-free zones is that the 2nd Amendment, which is a civil liberty, is for all intents and purposes nullified within those zones. Even if gun-free zones actually worked, which they don't, that in itself would be a very troubling problem from the aspect of Constitutional law.

E: As a side note, in many jurisdictions, a "gun-free zone" is not legally binding unless it is posted as such--and then often the signage has to conform to certain specifications (such as the 30.06 statute in Texas) to be valid, which it often doesn't. So, the "no guns" signs you see around may or may not be legally binding, it depends on state and local laws. Further, local jurisdictions often hang such signs in parks and such even though such laws may be in direct opposition to those imposed by the state ("preemption"; again, depending on the state). A lot of these laws are the focus of lawsuits at the moment.

Comments:

[Editor's note to self: need to find and include fact that all but two recent mass shootings have occurred in gun-free zones. Need to include citations.]

Source for A:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/sarah-illingworth/david-anderson-the-us-doesnt-need-more-gun-control_b_8297922.html

They Say: “No one wants to take your guns” and/or “No one’s infringing on your 2nd Amendment rights” and/or President Obama [Hillary Clinton, the Democrats, etc.] isn’t [aren’t] trying to take your guns.”

You Say:

A: *Plenty* of people want to take my guns. Read the quotes on this web page. Start from the bottom up to read the most recent first:

<http://thewriterinblack.blogspot.com/2014/09/nobody-wants-to-take-your-guns.html>.

When someone says they are willing to come for your guns, the guys that have been saying “They're coming for your guns!” sound more credible.

B: “Waiting periods are only a step. Registration is only a step. The prohibition of private firearms is the goal.” U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, December 1993

C: “The state of Iowa should take semi-automatic weapons away from Iowans who have legally purchased them prior to any ban that is enacted if they don’t give their weapons up in a buy-back program. Even if you have them, I think we need to start taking them.” [Iowa state Rep. Dan Muhlbauer \(D-Manilla\)](#), 2013

D: “It is extremely important that individuals in the state of California do not own assault weapons. I mean that is just so crystal clear, there is no debate, no discussion,” [Leland Yee, California State Senator](#), just before he himself got indicted for trafficking illegal arms.

E: "If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Senate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them--Mr. and Mrs. America, turn them all

in--I would have done it." Senator Dianne Feinstein on "assault weapons" ban, 1995.

F: You're talking about the same government that banned personal possession of more than 5 ounces of gold. If they have the temerity to do that, why *wouldn't* they want to come for the guns? http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Executive_Order_6102

G: [sarcastically] Ok, you're not coming for our guns, you're not infringing on my 2nd Amendment rights, you're just going to tell me how long my gun can be, how many rounds it can hold, how quiet it cannot be (suppressors are NFA items), what plastic parts I can and can't attach to it, what kind of ammo I can own and how much, how I must store the gun, where I can and can't carry it, if I need a "permission slip" to own, buy, or carry one . . . that's all.

H: The New York *Times* itself published an editorial on the FRONT PAGE, the first time an editorial's been there since 1920, promoting the idea that certain types of guns need to be banned. That's a major mainstream institution calling for a gun ban.

I: I think you said that wrong. You meant to say, "President Obama [Hillary, etc.] *won't* be taking our guns." That much we agree on. But make no mistake. He's no friend of the 2nd Amendment. The only reason he and his like-minded legislators aren't succeeding, either through direct attack on the 2nd Amendment or subvertly by increasing and expanding regulations, is the push-back he continually gets from pro-2nd Amendment groups (the NRA, the SAF, and others). If there was a way that he could ban all private firearms, he would do it in a heartbeat. You can tell by the way he continually holds up Australia as a model for firearms regulation. I don't know if he understands this, but Australia invoked a mandatory buyback of most firearms a couple of decades ago. Anyone who knows anything about the history and controversy of gun control understands that Australia is THE silent dog whistle of gun confiscation. All gun owners need to hear is "Australia" and they are instantly on guard. Why does he keep bringing it up over and over?

J: Obama supported Senator Feinstein's most recent (2013) attempt to ban assault weapons. The legislation bans the sale, transfer, manufacturing and importation of:

- All semiautomatic rifles that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: pistol grip; forward grip; folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; barrel shroud; or threaded barrel.
- All semiautomatic pistols that can accept a detachable magazine and have at least one military feature: threaded barrel; second pistol grip; barrel shroud; capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip; or semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm.
- All semiautomatic rifles and handguns that have a fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 10 rounds.
- All semiautomatic shotguns that have a folding, telescoping, or detachable stock; pistol grip; fixed magazine with the capacity to accept more than 5 rounds; ability to accept a detachable magazine; forward grip; grenade launcher or rocket launcher; or shotgun with a revolving cylinder.
- All ammunition feeding devices (magazines, strips, and drums) capable of accepting more than 10 rounds.
- 157 specifically-named firearms.

I'm not sure what you think "taking away your guns" means, but it sure sounds like he and his accomplices are in favor of taking away a large number of common, popular firearms!

K: [Continued from above]: Here is a list of firearms the assault weapon ban would have prohibited. These were explicitly mentioned by name in the bill. Now tell me that Obama does not support taking guns away?

Rifles: All AK types, including the following: AK, AK47, AK47S, AK-74, AKM, AKS, ARM, MAK90, MISR, NHM90, NHM91, Rock River Arms LAR-47, SA85, SA93, Vector Arms AK-47, VEPR, WASR-10, and WUM, IZHMAISH Saiga AK, MAADI AK47 and ARM, Norinco 56S, 56S2, 84S, and 86S, Poly Technologies AK47 and AKS; All AR types, including the following: AR-10, AR-15, Armalite M15 22LR Carbine, Armalite

M15-T, Barrett REC7, Beretta AR-70, Bushmaster ACR, Bushmaster Carbon 15, Bushmaster MOE series, Bushmaster XM15, Colt Match Target Rifles, DoubleStar AR rifles, DPMS Tactical Rifles, Heckler & Koch MR556, Olympic Arms, Remington R-15 rifles, Rock River Arms LAR-15, Sig Sauer SIG516 rifles, Smith & Wesson M&P15 Rifles, Stag Arms AR rifles, Sturm, Ruger & Co. SR556 rifles; Barrett M107A1; Barrett M82A1; Beretta CX4 Storm; Calico Liberty Series; CETME Sporter; Daewoo K-1, K-2, Max 1, Max 2, AR 100, and AR 110C; Fabrique Nationale/FN Herstal FAL, LAR, 22 FNC, 308 Match, L1A1 Sporter, PS90, SCAR, and FS2000; Feather Industries AT-9; Galil Model AR and Model ARM; Hi-Point Carbine; HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, HK-PSG-1 and HK USC; Kel-Tec Sub-2000, SU-16, and RFB; SIG AMT, SIG PE-57, Sig Sauer SG 550, and Sig Sauer SG 551; Springfield Armory SAR-48; Steyr AUG; Sturm, Ruger Mini-14 Tactical Rifle M-14/20CF; All Thompson rifles, including the following: Thompson M1SB, Thompson T1100D, Thompson T150D, Thompson T1B, Thompson T1B100D, Thompson T1B50D, Thompson T1BSB, Thompson T1-C, Thompson T1D, Thompson T1SB, Thompson T5, Thompson T5100D, Thompson TM1, Thompson TM1C; UMAREX UZI Rifle; UZI Mini Carbine, UZI Model A Carbine, and UZI Model B Carbine; Valmet M62S, M71S, and M78; Vector Arms UZI Type; Weaver Arms Nighthawk; Wilkinson Arms Linda Carbine. Pistols: All AK-47 types, including the following: Centurion 39 AK pistol, Draco AK-47 pistol, HCR AK-47 pistol, IO Inc. Hellpup AK-47 pistol, Krinkov pistol, Mini Draco AK-47 pistol, Yugo Krebs Krink pistol; All AR-15 types, including the following: American Spirit AR-15 pistol, Bushmaster Carbon 15 pistol, DoubleStar Corporation AR pistol, DPMS AR-15 pistol, Olympic Arms AR-15 pistol, Rock River Arms LAR 15 pistol; Calico Liberty pistols; DSA SA58 PKP FAL pistol; Encom MP-9 and MP-45; Heckler & Koch model SP-89 pistol; Intratec AB-10, TEC-22 Scorpion, TEC-9, and TEC-DC9; Kel-Tec PLR 16 pistol; The following MAC types: MAC-10, MAC-11; Masterpiece Arms MPA A930 Mini Pistol, MPA460 Pistol, MPA Tactical Pistol, and MPA Mini Tactical Pistol; Military Armament Corp. Ingram M-11, Velocity Arms VMAC; Sig Sauer P556 pistol; Sites Spectre; All Thompson types, including the following: Thompson TA510D, Thompson TA5; All UZI types, including: Micro-UZI.

Shotguns: Franchi LAW-12 and SPAS 12; All IZHMASH Saiga 12 types, including the following: IZHMASH Saiga 12, IZHMASH Saiga 12S, IZHMASH Saiga 12S EXP-01, IZHMASH Saiga 12K, IZHMASH Saiga 12K-030, IZHMASH Saiga 12K-040 Taktika; Streetsweeper; Striker 12.

Belt-fed semiautomatic firearms: All belt-fed semiautomatic firearms including TNW M2HB.

L: It's not like they're trying to repeal the 2nd Amendment directly. We're much more concerned with insidious, *hidden* attacks on those rights. Like, for example, 2013 Operation Chokepoint, run by the Department of Justice under Obama. This operation, disclosed in this [Wall Street Journal](#) story, essentially bypassed due process. The government was pressuring the financial industry to cut off companies' access to banking services without first having shown that the targeted companies were violating the law. As reported by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), "it's a thinly veiled ideological attack on industries the Obama administration doesn't like, such as gun sellers and coal producers."

Further, thwarted by Congress in instituting new gun control measures in 2013, Obama moved on to address gun matters [through executive order](#), 23 original ones in all. Depending on who you ask, none of these executive orders are serious threats to the 2nd Amendment, and there may even be some, like ones prompting easier access to mental health treatment, which pro-gunners can get behind. But there are others, like the executive order encouraging doctors to ask their patients about their firearm ownership, which many find extremely problematic.

The Obama administration has announced more executive actions beyond the original 23 executive orders noted above. One very controversial one prevents the re-importation of military firearms back into the U.S. Since 2005, the government has authorized 250,000 of such firearms. The ban on re-importation negatively affects hobbyists, collectors, and anyone wishing to own these particular types of firearms. In particular, there is concern in some quarters that this executive order might put the 110+ year-old [Civilian Marksman Program](#) at risk.

This executive order seems petty and arbitrary, because it is highly doubtful that this restriction will do anything to help prevent violence. How many robberies have you heard about that are committed with an old WWII-vintage M1 Garand? As well, there is nothing different about these firearms compared to other types of non-military rifles that are perfectly legal to buy and use.

More executive orders: In January of 2016, the Obama administration released yet another set of executive orders (actually not true EO's, actually executive *actions*, which carry no legislative power), which, among other things, attempts to expand upon when one is required to acquire a Federal Firearms License in order to buy and sell guns. While more FFLs would increase the number of licensees and background checks, there are serious unintended consequences for those that are captured by the new definition, for existing licensees and for the ATF. Even lawyers within the Obama Administration [acknowledge](#) that setting an arbitrary numerical threshold would open the door to a legal challenge. Further, the definition for what constitutes a dealer versus a private seller is ambiguous and imprecise; see the ATF's "guidance" document itself for evidence of this: <https://www.atf.gov/file/100871/download> (PDF). There are no definite regulations in this document that a person can definitively use to determine whether or not they need to apply for an FFL. The document has many ambiguous passages of this sort (for one example):

Federal law does not establish a "bright-line" rule for when a federal firearms license is required. As a result, there is no specific threshold number or frequency of sales, quantity of firearms, or amount of profit or time invested that triggers the licensure requirement. Instead, determining whether you are "engaged in the business" of dealing in firearms requires looking at the specific facts and circumstances of your activities. As a general rule, you will need a license if you repetitively buy and sell firearms with the principal motive of making a profit. In contrast, if you only make occasional sales of firearms from your personal collection, you do not need to be licensed. In either case, all of your firearms transactions are relevant, regardless of their

location; it does not matter if sales are conducted out of your home, at gun shows, flea markets, through the internet, or by other means.

So there is no specific amount of profit that determines if you are a dealer, but you are considered a dealer if you are trying to make a profit? In any case, this document itself on the second page admits it has no legislative power:

The guidance set forth herein has no regulatory effect and is not intended to create or confer any rights, privileges, or benefits in any matter, case, or proceeding, see United States v. Caceres, 440 U.S. 741 (1979).

Further, the ATF does not have the manpower to do much enforcing of these new requirements; see

<http://www.thetrace.org/2016/01/gun-show-obama-executive-action/>.

So, to sum all the paragraphs above, while the Obama administration will not be taking away our guns anytime soon, through its executive orders, actions, and statements, it sure looks like it *wants* to.

M: Laws--federal, state, and local--are proposed to take guns away from citizens all the time, and the vast, vast majority are sponsored by Democrats. Most recently in 2015, we have H.R. 4269, titled "Assault Weapons Ban of 2015" (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4269/text>) sponsored by David Sicilline of Rhode Island (Democrat) and co-sponsored by 123 other representatives, ALL DEMOCRATS. This bill seeks "To regulate assault weapons, to ensure that the right to keep and bear arms is not unlimited, and for other purposes." the number of firearms it bans is large, and in fact in this bill all semi-automatic rifles of certain characteristics are banned en masse; the bill actually includes a lengthy list of the specific makes and models of firearms that AREN'T banned. Yes, that's right, it's easier to list the guns that aren't banned than to list the ones that are, under this bill. Visit the link to get more specifics about this proposed ban.

Comments:

Source for H:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/05/opinion/end-the-gun-epidemic-in-america.html?action=click&pgtype=Homepage&clickSource=story-heading&module=opinion-c-col-left-region®ion=opinion-c-col-left-region&WT.nav=opinion-c-col-left-region>

Source for J and K. Note that there is additional detail on the page that shows the length and breadth of the proposed assault weapon ban:

<http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/assault-weapons-ban-summary>

Sources for L:

<http://www.nssfblog.com/gun-control-groups-push-for-redefining-reality/>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/obama-weighs-expanding-background-checks-through-executive-authority/2015/10/08/6bd45e56-6b63-11e5-9bfe-e59f5e244f92_story.html

<http://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2013/08/29/216839511/president-to-issu-e-new-executive-orders-on-guns>

They Say: "We should do what Australia did, with their gun buyback initiative. They haven't had a mass shooting since."

You Say:

A: It wasn't a "buyback," it was *mandatory confiscation*. Call it what it is. [Anti-gunners who point to the Australian model usually try to play up the "buyback" dimension and underplay the "mandatory" element. Don't let them get away with it!]

B: Australia confiscated 600 thousand guns. Americans have 350 million guns. That's 583 times the number. It would require 583 times the effort and money. Even if you gave only \$100 back for each gun for each mandatory buyback, that is 35 billion dollars right there. And most guns are worth a lot more than that! Where is that billions of dollars going to come from? Where is the money going to come from to organize such a massive, national effort? Your taxes?

C: Do you really want to shape our society after a country where in some states you have to be 18 to buy plastic picnicware?

<http://www.offthereservation.net/2014/01/nanny-state-gone-wild.html>

How about a country where Nerf guns are banned because they're "too dangerous"?

<http://www.gizmodo.com.au/2015/11/australia-wont-get-nerfs-awesome-new-rival-blasters/>

D: All over the U.S., law enforcement officials have gone on record saying that they would NOT enforce a blatantly unconstitutional confiscation law.

E: The jury is still out that the Australian firearm confiscation did anything to reduce firearm homicide rates or suicide rates there. Here is an interesting paper you should be aware of from the University of Melbourne. Let's just look at the summary: "The 1996-97 National Firearms Agreement (NFA) in Australia introduced strict gun laws, primarily as a reaction to the mass shooting in Port Arthur, Tasmania in 1996, where 35 people were killed. Despite the fact that several researchers using the same data have examined the impact of the NFA on firearm deaths, **a consensus does not appear to have been reached.** In this paper, we re-analyze the same data on firearm deaths used in previous research, using tests for unknown structural breaks as a means to identifying impacts of the NFA. **The results of these tests suggest that the NFA did not have any large effects**

on reducing firearm homicide or suicide rates.”

<http://c8.nrostatic.com/sites/default/files/Lee%20and%20Suardi%202008.pdf>

Here's another such study, this one using New Zealand as a control:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2122854 . From the summary: “The current paper examines the incidence of mass shootings in Australia and New Zealand (a country that is socioeconomically similar to Australia, but with a different approach to firearms regulation) over a 30 year period. **It does not find support for the hypothesis that Australia's prohibition of certain types of firearms has prevented mass shootings**, with New Zealand not experiencing a mass shooting since 1997 despite the availability in that country of firearms banned in Australia.”

F: The Australian gun ban isn't as successful as its advocates try to make out. Australia has a big problem with illegal guns, and it's a problem that's getting bigger. When people can't find manufactured guns, they just make them out of parts they find at the hardware store:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/deadly-diy-homemade-guns-hit-sydney-streets-in-record-numbers/story-fni0cx12-1227581151383?sv=ef8ab66b2848f4aa8f539637463c5ee1&nk=71000246701f728a7c9ba75c6222acaf-1445736638>

G: There is precedent where governments confiscated all firearms from the citizenship successfully. Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, Kim Young Ill all were successful at it. You see what I'm getting at here.

H: President Obama and other gun-control advocates often say that Australia has had no mass shootings in the past 19 years. That depends on your definition of “mass shooting.” The Australian Institute of Criminology describes it as a shooting in which four or more people are fatally shot by a single gunman. [In 2002](#) two people were killed and five were injured in a shooting at Melbourne's Monash University; [in 2011](#) three people were killed and three were wounded in the Hectorville siege; and in 2014 three people (including the gunman) were killed and four were injured in a Sydney hostage crisis.

I: John Howard, the Australian prime minister who oversaw Australia's gun ban, had this to say about enacting a similar ban in the U.S.: "Our challenges were different from America's. Australia is an even more intensely urban society, with close to 60 percent of our people living in large cities. Our gun lobby isn't as powerful or well-financed as the National Rifle Association in the United States. Australia, correctly in my view, does not have a Bill of Rights, so our legislatures have more say than America's over many issues of individual rights, and our courts have less control. Also, we have no constitutional right to bear arms." (After all, the British granted us nationhood peacefully; the United States had to fight for it.) Beyond what he says about the problems he foresees with implementing Australia-style gun control in the U.S., he thinks it's good that Australia has no Bill of Rights?!?

J: "Not a single mass shooting since the gun ban" is really stretching the truth. There has been plenty mass murder, by gun or otherwise, in Australia since the gun ban. Here are some of the incidents:

- [Childers Palace Fire](#) - In June 2000, drifter and con-artist Robert Long started a fire at the Childers Palace backpackers hostel that killed 15 people.
- [Monash University shooting](#) - In October 2002, Huan Yun Xiang, a student, shot his classmates and teacher, killing two and injuring five.
- [Churchill Fire](#) - 10 confirmed deaths due to a deliberately lit fire. The fire was lit on 7 February 2009.^[5]
- [Lin family murders](#) - On July 2009, Lian Bin "Robert" Xie killed his sister, her husband and three members of their family (5 persons from the Lin family) with a hammer. The faces of the victims were so disfigured that forensics had to be used to identify them. The motivation for the family massacre were partly because Lin had criticised Xie for not having a job.
- [2011 Hectorville siege](#) - A shooting that took place on 29 April 2011, in Hectorville, South Australia. It began after a 39-year-old male, Donato

Anthony Corbo, shot four people on a neighbouring property (three of whom died), and also wounded two police officers, before being arrested by Special Operations police after an eight-hour siege.^[6]

- [Quakers Hill Nursing Home Fire](#) - 10 confirmed and as many as 21 people may have died as a result of a deliberately lit fire in a Quakers Hill nursing home. The fire was lit early on 18 November 2011.^[7]
- [Hunt family murders](#) - Geoff Hunt killed his wife and three children before turning the gun on himself on September 9, 2014.^[8]
- [Cairns stabbings](#) - A woman stabbed 8 children to death on 19 December 2014. 7 of them were her own.^[9]

K: So, the Australia gun ban works? --It depends on how you define "works." Australia enacted their new gun laws in response to a mass shooting. The goal was to get rid of mass shootings. Of course when people talk about its success, they talk about the reduction in gun violence not just mass shootings. They seem to leave out the part where there has been two mass shootings since then.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monash_University_shooting

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2011_Hectorville_siege

So the gun laws they enacted didn't stop mass shootings.

And people who wanted to kill large groups of people found a simple way even without a gun.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quakers_Hill,_New_South_Wales#Nursing_home_fire

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Childers_Palace_Backpackers_Hostel_fire

Australia now has more guns than they did before the gun confiscation.

<http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/gun-ownership-rises-10-per-cent-across-nsw-20150730-ginwzw.html>

And to top it all off, criminals have figured out just how easy it is to make full auto sub-machine guns.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/jeweller-angelos-koots-admits-to-making-submachine-guns-at-his-seven-hills-home-and-supplying-them-to-bikie-groups/story-fni0cx12-1226760983916>

So if by “works” you mean, focus on one narrow statistic like gun violence and ignore all other effects and the original purpose of the law, then yes their laws work great. But if by works you mean as a successful example that America should follow? Well then I would have to disagree.

L: Gun violence is on the rise in Australia. As expected, the bad guys manage to find guns while ordinary people have none:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/police-act-to-stem-alarming-rise-in-illegal-firearms-and-shootings-20151105-gkrvyy.html>

M: You know what's sad? It used to be, the Aussies were the people that we in the U.S. looked up to as the model of what a rugged, unflappable individualist was. Witness such popular movies as Crocodile Dundee ("That's not knife, this is a knife!"), the ever-popular tales of Aussies having to survive saltwater crocodiles and giant spiders and poisonous snakes, not to mention that their population was originally founded on a bunch of criminals so bad-ass that England kicked them out and stuck them on an island.

Now--look at this. It's sad. It's like someone or something ripped out Australia's collective balls by the roots and put them up on display in the trophy case.

N: I'll give you one thing. Say what you will, but since Australia [banned Nerf guns](#), there have been ZERO Nerf deaths. You just can't argue with those numbers.

Comments:

Anti-gunners will often refer to the Australian gun ban as an unmitigated success, as if it's an open-and-shut case. You need to challenge them on that assertion, because it is hardly a proven fact.

General background:

<http://johnrlott.blogspot.com/2012/08/some-notes-on-claims-about-australias.html>

Source for H and I:

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2015/10/how-australia-and-britain-tackled-gun-violence.html>

Source for J:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australian_mass_murders

They Say: We should close the “gun show loophole.”

You Say:

A: The so-called “gun show loophole” is a term made up by anti-gunners to describe a problem that doesn’t really exist. Let’s get one thing clear from the start: every *new* gun in the U.S., if sold legally to a private citizen, is sold with a background check. No exceptions. What the “loophole” refers to is the fact that in some states (not all) *private* person-to-person sales can be performed without a background check. It just so happens that some of these are performed at gun shows, but the actual number is very, very low. Any gun you buy from a dealer at a gun show will require a background check.

B: So, if you’re against the so-called “gun show loophole,” it just shows that you really don’t have a clue about how guns are transacted in the U.S. What you really want to be against are private sales and you want to be for “universal background checks.” But universal background checks are a whole other issue. They don’t really work in the states that require them.

C: What problem are you trying to solve anyway? How many crimes are committed with guns bought at gun shows? Daniel Webster, former Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, reported with data from a 2004 survey of inmates in state prisons. “The offenders were incarcerated from crimes committed with handguns, and this is how they reported how they obtained the guns:

- Licensed gun dealer: 11 percent
- Friends or family: 39.5 percent
- The street: 37.5 percent
- Stolen gun: 9.9 percent
- Gun show/Flea market: 1.7 percent"

Comments:

Source for C: *Reducing Gun Violence in America*, Johns Hopkins Press.

According to anti-gunners, there are mass quantities of guns being sold to people at gun shows without background checks. This is not the case. All guns sold at gun shows--all new guns, at least--are sold only through federal dealers, and by law they need to perform a background check on the seller. Now, if there are any private sales on used guns being performed at a gun show, they are not subject to background checks--but that has nothing to do with the gun show per se, those private sales could occur anywhere in the state. However, in many or most states, private sales are greatly discouraged at gun shows. According to an informal survey on Reddit (<https://redd.it/3snnmc>):

1. "Go to any gun show, and you'll see tables full of pistols and rifles that the licensed dealers are hoping to sell to you. Those dealers must, of course, perform the background check. You will also see the occasional individual walking around with a rifle slung over his shoulder or a pistol case in hand, hoping to sell a personal firearm. He, of course, is not required to perform a background check in most jurisdictions. In those jurisdictions where he *is* required to perform a background check, enforcing such an action is a pipe dream--there is *nothing* to prevent him from meeting up later at coffee shop with someone who expressed an interest in his gun . . . The gun prohibitionists would have you believe that the latter person is 'moving more product' and keeping all

the drug dealers and domestic terrorists readily supplied. This is not true.”

2. “Private sales are by far the minority of transactions at the gun shows I have been to. (That is a lot of gun shows, roughly 12-15 a year for the last 20 years.) I would guess less than 1% of the transactions at the shows I have been to, just because you don't see that many guys with signs.”
3. “Hi, [I’m a] Indiana resident that goes to our gun shows regularly. All sales that occur at an FFL in any Indiana Gun show require an NICS background check. They are talking about private sales, not guns bought from dealer . . . most of them are local dealers. If a guy sets up a table with a lot of firearms without an FFL he is going to get a LOT of scrutiny from local LEOs. Indiana also has a fairly large population of marked ATF guys in their letter jackets.”
4. “Texas and formerly Arizona here. No. Every gun show I've been to in both states the vast majority of tables are FFL's. On the occasions where I have come across a table with someone selling privately the guns are usually 2 or 3 in number and ancient, beat up junk. Once in awhile you'll see someone who has one or 2 decent firearms but not usually. Even then, most won't even sell a rifle to someone from out of state and none will sell a handgun to someone from out of state. So, the idea that criminals are purchasing these weapons in large numbers at gun shows is a blatant stinky pile of [crap]. They are purchasing illegally from someone selling illegally.”
5. “Not even close. I've been to the Indy 1500 4 times and bought 3 guns there. All 3 required background checks. Everyone there is legit. The only way to get a gun without a background check there is to find a private individual who might sell their guns, but that's no different from a random person on Armslist anywhere, not just gun shows.”
6. In Pennsylvania, there are hardly any private transactions performed at gun shows. Occasionally you will see the private individual walking around with a sign around his neck trying to sell a hunting rifle or a shotgun. In some places (like around Pittsburgh), private sales by

individuals are actively discouraged. One sometimes sees “No sales in parking lots,” and gun show organizers will threaten to call the cops on people who try to sell guns privately in the parking lot. Although that is legal, they will be arrested for trespassing on private property.

7. “I don't know about Indiana but I'll chime in for Iowa, I've been to dozens of gun shows and the only people selling guns from a booth without a background check were antique firearm dealers which are exempt from background checks. All non-antique firearms require a background check, in fact the first one I went to I didn't have a clue on the process of how to buy a gun and was escorted out for asking questions because the [idiot] I happened to ask said I was trying to buy a handgun without a permit to purchase.”

At this point, the burden of proof is on the anti-gunners to back up their statements with facts, to show that large quantities of guns are indeed being purchased at gun shows without background checks. As far as the authors can determine, this is absolutely false. If anyone has evidence otherwise, please send email at the address listed at the beginning of this guide.

They Say: “No one needs an ‘assault weapon.’ Military weapons have no place in civilian hands.”

You Say:

A: There is no such thing as an “assault weapon.” It is a made-up term designed to make the firearm seem more dangerous than it really is. In reality, it is just a regular semi-automatic rifle made to cosmetically look like a military rifle. A preferred term is “sporting rifle” or “modular rifle” (since the parts can be exchanged so easily).

B: Actually, assault weapons--really just semi-automatic sporting rifles, there's nothing “military” about them--make pretty good home defense weapons. They have less recoil, hold a number of rounds in a magazine, and are more likely to fragment and not over-penetrate.

C: It's not a matter of "need." It's a matter of what the laws permit. No one needs most of the words you find in a dictionary, either, but that doesn't mean we limit your right to string them together in a sentence so that you can exercise your 1st Amendment rights.

D: Do you mean "assault rifle"? It is already very difficult to own a military-grade select-fire rifle. You have to go through very extensive background checks and pay lots of money for a tax stamp and for the firearm itself. Be prepared to spend tens if not hundreds of thousands of dollars.

E: Define for me what an "assault weapon" is. [Typically will leave them speechless.]

F: When people like you say things like this, it just shows that you anti-gunners have no idea what you're talking about. That doesn't stop you from trying to pass stupid laws, though. Which is the main problem. For your information, there is no difference between a military-style AR-15 and many hunting rifles aside from the way they look. They hold the same number of rounds, they're both semi-automatic, they both are just as lethal. The AR-15 just looks scary. When you talk about "military-style" rifles, people who know about firearms get puzzled, because they know what you don't know: there's NO difference between those types of firearms and common hunting rifles aside from cosmetics. Then when you start talking about *banning* military-style rifles, they get *really, really* nervous, because logically if you want to ban an AR-15, you should want to ban rifles like the Ruger Mini-14 and other common hunting rifles as well. Where will it stop? How much do you want?

G: The meaning of the 2nd Amendment has not changed simply because weapons have. It was meant for the unorganized militia, (aka "We the People") to be able to train with the weapon of the day. In 1776 it was a flintlock, today it's the M-16, M-4, M-60, and the M-240.

Comments:

Typically the anti-gunner will have no real knowledge or understanding of the differences between a true military select-fire weapon and a semi-automatic weapon. If they did, they wouldn't make the claim in the first place. It is useful to underscore and play up this ignorance; if you demonstrate that they don't know what they're talking about there, it is easier to make the case that their entire argument should be dismissed out of hand.

They Say: "If you are a true Christian and/or pacifist, your beliefs are odds with owning a firearm" and or "Using a gun is immoral" and/or "Violence even in the name of self-defense is wrong."

You Say:

A: Luke 22: Jesus said: "But now, let him who has a purse take it, and likewise a bag. And let him who has no sword sell his mantle and buy one." Christ himself told his apostle when they went out to witness for him to arm themselves least they be at the mercy of those who would harm them. Yes, there is a time to beat our sword into plowshares, but that time is not right before a battle is to be fought.

B: "Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest. If we want the Arms Act to be repealed, if we want to learn the use of arms, here is a golden opportunity. If the middle classes render voluntary help to Government in the hour of its trial, distrust will disappear, and the ban on possessing arms will be withdrawn."

--Mahatma Gandhi referencing India's Arms Act of 1878, which gave Europeans in India the right to carry firearms but prevented Indians from doing so, unless they were granted a license by the British colonial government.

C: Martin Luther King was a gun owner, and in fact owned several guns--one visitor to the King family home described King's supply of weapons as an "armory." King

also applied for a concealed carry permit, but was turned down. Which is more than just ironic--it may have been criminal. Because of all people, he needed protection the most.

D: You're arguing that the Founders intentionally or unintentionally inserted an "immoral" article into the Bill of Rights?!?

E: I'm a Christian and I disagree with you. Guns in the hands of law abiding citizens are for the purpose of protecting life, not killing other humans. The Bible tells us to "choose life" and while living on this planet, guns are a part of protecting life. So just curious, do you now feel our country should lay down arms in the military? Should we stop fighting evil in the world and allow innocents to be killed? (That doesn't sound very Biblical.) If you're not for disarming the military, then why not? What is the difference?

F: The biggest problem is that yes, Christians everywhere could renounce their 2nd Amendment rights and carry it out to its extreme of driving down to the local police station and turning all your guns in. But the non-Christians aren't going to do so. And there are plenty of non-Christians out there in the streets who have guns and aren't afraid to use them on Christians who don't have guns. So if you are going to renounce your 2nd Amendment right to own a gun, it's probably not in your best interest to make it public that you are now a potential victim with no means of defending yourself.

G: You can renounce your 2nd Amendment rights, but if you're following the Biblical advice to turn the other cheek, you need to remember that when it comes to being shot, the first slap is a bullet and often, there's no need for a second slap.

H: Paul reminds us that just because we can do something it doesn't mean that doing so is beneficial, or that we should do it. (1st Corinthians 10:23). This observation can be and often is a two-way street, as one could argue that while are free to give up our firearms, doing so may not be beneficial, in fact it may indeed be the opposite.

I: If you reject the power to defend the life that God has given you, you have rejected God. If you reject the power to defend the lives of the innocent lives God has entrusted you to defend, you have rejected God.

J [Extension of A, above]: Luke 22:35-39: And He said to them, "When I sent you without money bag, knapsack, and sandals, did you lack anything?" So they said, "Nothing." Then He said to them, "But now, he who has a money bag, let him take it, and likewise a knapsack; and he who has no sword, let him sell his garment and buy one. "For I say to you that this which is written must still be accomplished in Me: 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.' For the things concerning Me have an end." So they said, "Lord, look, here are two swords." And He said to them, "It is enough." Coming out, He went to the Mount of Olives, as He was accustomed, and His disciples also followed Him.

K: Psalm 144:1: "Praise be to the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle."

Comments:

General Reference for background:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kutter-callaway/i-am-renouncing-my-2nd-amendment-rights_b_8710880.html

They Say: "Gun ownership is racist" and/or "Gun owners are just a bunch of racist old white men."

You Say:

A: No, gun *control* is racist, or at least has a racist history. In parts of the U.S. gun control has been used to keep suppressed minorities from obtaining firearms they could use to protect themselves or overthrow their oppressors.

For example, California, which currently has some of the toughest gun control in the country, started out with Assembly Bill 80 in 1854, which made it against the law to sell or give firearms to Native Americans. During this time, the government paid about one million-one hundred thousand dollars in 1852 to militias with the goal to hunt down and kill Indians in California. In 1857, the California legislature allocated another four hundred ten thousand dollars for the same purposes. In 1856, the state of California paid twenty-five cents for each Indian scalp; they increased that bounty to five dollars in 1860.

In his concurring opinion in *McDonald v. City of Chicago*, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas noted that historically blacks have been disarmed by state legislatures and denied protection from white mobs. The use of firearms for self-defense was often the only way black citizens could protect themselves from mob violence. As Eli Cooper, one target of such violence, is said to have explained, “[t]he Negro has been run over for 50 years, but it must stop now, and pistols and shotguns are the only weapons to stop a mob.”

B: It’s interesting you say that. You should know about the case of Shaneen Allen, a Pennsylvania gun-owner who accidentally drove into New Jersey with her gun. She was pulled over for a traffic violation, and since she had no permit to carry in New Jersey, she was looking at many years’ prison time for a simple mistake. Her children were threatened to be taken away. Shaneen Allen? African American. Who helped her out with legal advice and attorneys? --The NRA. Who did she publicly thank for helping her? The NRA. Racist? --Maybe some members, but no more than the rest of the population.

C: On the contrary, unpopular minorities are among those who MOST need weapons with which to defend themselves. Martin Luther King, Jr., kept many weapons in his house for that reason. The Pink Pistols is a very popular LGBT group that promotes the 2nd Amendment, because they know that a gay basher is a lot less likely to try gay bashing if he’s looking down the barrel of a gun. Gun rights for the common person embodies the true American spirit, in that no citizen will be

oppressed by others simply because the would-be oppressors are bigger and stronger than others.

D: Rev. Kenn Blanchard, AKA "Black Man With A Gun," can respond to your accusations much better than I can: <http://blackmanwithagun.com/about-4> . "After serving for five years in the USMC he was recruited to join the CIA and helped create many of the protective programs still in place there. During this time he became an obsessive entrepreneur trying to find a niche in the firearms industry. He created a training business focused on bringing minorities to the shooting sports and founded a national shooting club from African Americans called the Tenth Cavalry Gun Club. He has been the recipient of the National Rifle Association's Carter-Knight Freedom award, CCRKBA Gun Defender Award of the month (August 1997) and the St. Gabriel Possenti award."

E: "Then the crowd started screaming. They said that a nigger had hit a white man. They were referring to me. They were screaming, "Kill the niggers! Kill the niggers! Pour gasoline on the niggers! Burn the niggers!" We were still sitting in the car. The man who was driving the stock car got out of the car with a baseball bat and started walking toward us saying, "Nigger, what did you hit me for?" I didn't say anything to him. We just sat there looking at him. He came up close to our car, within arm's length with the baseball bat, but I still hadn't said anything and we didn't move in the car. What they didn't know was that we were armed. Under North Carolina state law it is legal to carry firearms in your automobile so long as these firearms are not concealed. I had two pistols and a rifle in the car. When this fellow started to draw back his baseball bat, I put an Army .45 up in the window of the car and pointed it right into his face and didn't say a word. He looked at the pistol and he didn't say anything. He started backing away from the car. Somebody in the crowd fired a pistol and the people again started to scream hysterically, "Kill the niggers! Kill the niggers! Pour gasoline on the niggers!" The mob started to throw stones on top of my car. So I opened the door of the car and I put one foot on the ground and stood up in the door holding an Italian carbine. All this time three policemen had been standing about fifty feet away from us while we kept waiting in the car for them to come and rescue us. Then when they saw that we

were armed and the mob couldn't take us, two of the policemen started running. One ran straight to me, grabbed me on the shoulder, and said, "Surrender your weapon! Surrender your weapon!" I struck him in the face and knocked him back away from the car and put my carbine in his face, and I told him we were not going to surrender to a mob. I told him that we didn't intend to be lynched. The other policeman who had run around the side of the car started to draw his revolver out of the holster. He was hoping to shoot me in the back. They didn't know that we had more than one gun. One of the students (who was seventeen years old) put a .45 in the policeman's face and told him that if he pulled out his pistol he would kill him. The policeman started putting his gun back into the holster and backing away from the car, and he fell into the ditch. There was a very old man, an old white man out in the crowd, and he started screaming and crying like a baby, and he kept crying, and he said, "God damn, God damn, what is this God damn country coming to that the niggers have got guns, the niggers are armed and the police can't even arrest them!" He kept crying and somebody led him away through the crowd."

--Robert Williams, *Negroes With Guns*.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_F._Williams

Comments:

General reference:

<https://libcom.org/files/Robert%20Franklin%20Williams%20-%20Negroes%20with%20guns.pdf>

Source for A:

<https://www.firearmspolicy.org/news/blog/californias-first-gun-control-law-the-racist-roots-and-evolution-of-the-gun-control-movement/>

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Sources for B:

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<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20140926/shaneen-allen-to-avoid-prison-as-new-jersey-ag-revises-sentencing-guidance-for-gun-law-violations>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t5jUwMEHRGA>

<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150412/gov-chris-christie-pardons-shaneen-allen>

They Say: “If you ban manufacture of new guns now, in 50 or 100 years, the supply will have dried up and we will see a reduction in crime.”

You Say:

A: We’re already seeing a reduction in crime. According to a recent report by the DOJ’s National Institute of Justice/Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI Uniform Crime report, every year since 1993 there have been fewer and fewer violent crimes with or without guns, and fewer and fewer declining gun accidents. This is despite many more guns being on the streets and many gun laws being loosened: the number of semi-auto pistols has quadrupled and the number of high capacity “tactical” rifles has tripled. This is a relatively safe country to live in. What has risen is the media’s hysteria and exploitation of gun crime.

B: But the bad guys will still have fists. I am a 67-year-old woman ["What about old ladies," or "What about the weak and infirm," "Take my mother for example," etc.]. Without access to a firearm I am completely at the mercy of heartless, violent criminals.

Comments:

[Author's note to self: get source for reduction in crime statistics and gun numbers]

They Say: "What we need are more "common sense" gun laws" and/or "I'm not anti-gun, I just think we need more common sense gun laws to keep guns out of the hands of crazy people and criminals."

You Say:

A: What exactly do you have in mind? "Common sense" is a completely meaningless buzzword. Every time a gun control supporter gives specifics about what they mean by that exactly, it turns out to be an idea that is anything but "common sense."

B: I'm open to listening, but honestly, every time I hear the phrase "common sense," it turns out to be anything BUT common sense.

Examples: prohibiting cosmetic features on weapons deemed "assault rifles" even though they don't have select fire. They're just semi-automatic rifles. They're not "assault rifles" because they have a military look. Changing their looks is not going to make them less deadly. Banning high-capacity magazines with the Sandy Hook kids standing behind you, acting like it's an anti-mass shooting bill, when it's just as practical for a crazy person to perform a mass shooting with a handgun and a backpack full of magazines, as happened Virginia Tech. Banning a specific type of handgun used in the Columbine shootings, when any number of other handguns

could be used to wreak the same havoc. By "common sense" they mean totally stupid and utterly meaningless efforts.

C: Let's be clear. If you're looking to impose new laws that somehow keep guns away from criminals and crazy people without infringing on the gun rights of the rest of us, we're with you. But if your common-sense solution means infringing on the rights of responsible, law abiding citizens to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights, we're going to fight you every inch of the way.

D: The biggest problem with most new proposed gun laws is that they completely discount the concept of responsible citizens, demand "laws" that make responsible citizens criminals, while those same laws will be ignored by existing criminals.

Comments:

Most anti-gunners don't know much about firearms. If you insist that they spell out what "common sense" really means to them, you will quickly find that they either run out of things to say or begin to spout what basically amounts to nonsense, having no reflection in reality about how guns operate, how deadly they can be, the different kinds of firearms and how they're classified, etc. Push them to explain themselves--they won't be able to. If you DO run up an anti-gunner who turns out to be knowledgeable, consider yourself lucky because you can then argue on actual merits of the case, not against someone's erroneously worldview of guns.

One of the first things to find out is if they know the difference between fully auto and semi-auto firearms. They probably don't. Then find out if they realize that most all handguns (except for single-action revolvers and the like) can act as "semi-autos," just like their much-hated and much-maligned "assault weapons." If they accept that handguns can be just as deadly as assault weapons, in order to be logically consistent they'll have to argue that handguns should be banned too. So, point out to them that what they're calling for is more or less a complete ban on all firearms except for some bolt- or lever-action rifles and manual shotguns.

They Say: “Every gun owner is a ‘responsible’ gun owner until he pulls the trigger and shoots someone.”

You Say:

A: Right! Just like every car driver is a responsible car driver until the first time he drinks too much and operates the vehicle drunk. That’s the way our justice system works! We don’t punish people for laws they potentially might break, only the laws they DO break! To do otherwise crosses dangerously into the territory of “thought crimes.”

B: You’re making a very serious error in logic and judgment, here. You are conflating a relatively small set of criminals who use guns to commit acts of violence with the many more tens of millions of law-abiding, responsible gun owners who use their firearms responsibly with never any malintent. The two populations intersect, but if you were to draw a Venn diagram, the criminals’ circle would be very very tiny, and the gun owners’ circle would be very very large. Further, that circle of criminals also intersects larger circles that YOU are a member of: owners and operators of cars, swimming pools, knives, hammers, pressure cookers, [airplanes](#), and all sorts of other items that YOU are in possession of that are *also* dangerous in the wrong hands.

C: By that logic, every man is a potential rapist because he possesses a penis.

They Say: “You can buy any kind of gun you want over the internet!” and/or “It’s entirely too easy to buy a gun in the U.S.!”

You Say:

A: What are you saying exactly? That there are no restrictions placed on gun purchases over the internet? For your information, any gun that is bought from

another state has to be shipped to a federally licensed firearm dealer (FFL) and a background check performed before you pick it up. No exceptions, except maybe for criminals who don't follow the rules. To do otherwise is a felony!

B: Yeah, you can. But when you have a gun shipped right to your door, you've committed a felony. But then, only law-abiding folks follow the law. Criminals by definition ignore laws inconvenient to them. That's why we don't want any more stupid laws that only serve to burden law-abiding gun owners and which are difficult or impossible to enforce. We got enough gun laws already that aren't enforced the way they should be.

C: Firearms are the most severely regulated consumer product in the United States--the only product for which FBI permission is required for every single sale.

D: Every single new gun sold legally in the U.S. is sold with a background check. No exceptions.

E: Federal Law requires that all modern firearms be shipped to a holder of a valid Federal Firearms License (FFL) only. The recipient must have an FFL; however the sender is not required to have one. Any person who is legally allowed to own a firearm is legally allowed to ship it to an FFL holder for any legal purpose (including sale or resale). In addition, there are various state and local regulations.

Comment:

Sources for E:

<http://www.gunbroker.com/Support/SupportFaqView.aspx?faqid=1118>

<https://www.atf.gov/file/58536/download>

They Say: “Rifles are one thing, but no one needs a handgun.”

You Say:

A: What you’re saying here is diametrically opposed to what was concluded in the Supreme Court case *Heller v. District of Columbia*, which found that handguns are the quintessential self-defense weapon.

B: Next you’ll be telling me that nouns are okay, but no one needs a verb. Like the 1st, the 2nd Amendment is a protected right, and you don’t get to tell me what I need or don’t need.

C: Different firearms for different purposes. There’s a reason there’s so many different varieties of firearms, they all fill a different niche.

D: I suppose you’re right, when a 65-year-old grandma is accosted getting off a bus somewhere at night in a poor neighborhood in the dark by a towering 230-pound man, who is out for her money or intending on more nefarious goals, she’ll be able to easily fend him off with her fists and knitting needles. News flash: guns are the great equalizer.

They Say: “Don’t you have any compassion for all those little kids killed at Sandy Hook?”

You Say:

A: I hope you’re not implying that gun owners have no conscience??? I think most of us are able to put ourselves in the shoes of the victims and their families. I often think what I would do and what I would feel if my daughter [son, wife, husband, etc.] was one of the victims. It would be pretty damn terrible. Horrible. When it’s personal, it’s no longer a dispassionate statistic. I just understand that the solution

isn't to disarm everyone, which is the typical reaction of the anti-gunner. And I don't blame a hundred million people for the actions of one lunatic.

B: Very much so. And I'm really sad there wasn't someone armed nearby to help prevent it from happening.

C: Yes, that's why I want children to be protected.

D: Infringing on the people's right to bear arms will not bring those children back, nor will it make anyone safer in the future.

E: Yes I do. But I think you would be much better suited fighting to get the mental health issues in this country fixed. Someone doesn't do something like this without having real issues. Address the real problem and quit blaming an inanimate object for the cause of the deaths.

F: You do realize that the day after Sandy Hook, a guy in China went into a school and killed eight people. A bunch of kids and a couple teachers. He used a knife. So, should China ban knives now?

G: As a parent of two [three, four, whatever] children, I have tremendous compassion and empathy for the children and families impacted. However, I also recognize that the right to keep and bear arms by the U.S. citizenry has, in no small part, restrained our government from using force against its own population that in other countries resulted in the deaths of MILLIONS of children just as precious and loved as those in Sandy Hook.

H: Well, that's your problem right there. You see a crazy person with a gun kill a bunch of innocent children and the first thing in your mind is that you don't think "wow, that crazy person did an evil thing, I wonder how we can stop crazy people from doing this," instead you think "wow, that gun owner did a crazy and evil thing, I wonder how we can take the guns away from the gun owners." "Gun owners" does not equal "crazy and evil people," no matter how isolated in your life you may

be from the millions of gun owners who are everyday Joes and how insulated you are from gun culture [note: see [this comment](#) on the term].

They Say: "We have a serious gun problem in this country, and we refuse to address it."

You Say:

A: Just how do you want to go about "addressing" it, exactly? Does your solution involve me having to give up more of my rights?

B: No, we have a serious social and mental health problem in this country. The guns don't just jump and shoot themselves. People seem to have this desire to hurt other people.

C: The vast majority of homicide victims have criminal records. Not that they deserve to die, but this fact does point out that if you are a law-abiding gun owner, or if you hang out with law-abiding gun owners, your chances of being hurt by a firearm (or any method) are actually pretty low. To prove this to yourself, go to your local paper (or any city's paper) and then do a docket search on the name of each murder victim. You'll come up with very, very few that haven't been in court of SERIOUS criminal charges (often violent crime and gun crime) and those who haven't are often the family members, girlfriends, wives of people who have.

D: Interesting that you feel that way--do you realize you are in the small minority? According to a recent Gallup poll, only 2% say that guns and gun control are among the nation's most important problems.

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/susan-jones/gallup-only-2-americans-name-guns-gun-control-among-nations-most-important>

Comments:

Sources for C:

- http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-08-31-criminal-target_N.htm
- <http://newpittsburghcourieronline.com/2013/07/05/police-report-most-homicide-victims-have-crime-records/>
- <http://www.politifact.com/wisconsin/statements/2012/mar/19/edward-flynn/85-percent-shooting-suspects-and-victims-milwaukee/>
- http://www.nola.com/crime/index.ssf/2012/01/nopd_release_of_murder_victims.html
- <http://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/Gary-Criminals-killing-criminals-238983071.html>
- <http://www.wnd.com/2013/03/most-murder-victims-in-big-cities-have-criminal-record/>

They Say: “So you think there shouldn’t be any laws restricting your right to own guns? Why not just have everyone be allowed to own surface-to-air missiles, suitcase nukes, nuclear warheads, aircraft carriers?”

You Say:

A: There are different kinds of arms. What you’re talking about with missiles and warheads aren’t normal arms at all, however. It’s military *ordnance*. Unlike arms “in normal use” (see Heller), like handguns and rifles, ordnance is strictly controlled. Even there, ordinary citizens can own some types of ordnance if they get permission from the government in the form of an NFA stamp. (Ordnance is/are arms, but not all arms are ordnance.) A nuke is definitely ordnance. You are unlikely to get the government to issue you an NFA stamp for a nuke. The only way you will own one is illegally.

B: Well, aside from the fact that nuclear warheads are very difficult to acquire, a regular citizen CAN own some military ordnance, if they jump through the necessary federal regulatory hoops. [example here]

C: I really don't want to own a nuke. A nuke is not a defensive weapon. I cannot target practice with a nuke. It will not fit in my pocket and make me safer as I walk through a dark, dangerous neighborhood. If I try to use it in self-defense, it will take me out along with my attacker and so defeats the purpose. I for one am a gun owner who does not want a nuke. You have a right to guns, which are "arms." You do not have a right to a nuke, which is definitely military ordnance.

Comments:

For "A" above: the full text of the Supreme Court decision on *Heller* can be found at many places on the web. Here's one source:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/html/07-290.ZO.html> .

They Say: "Every gun owner should be required to buy insurance."

You Say:

A: So, personal liability insurance for shooters is already available, but policies only cover injuries from accidents, not intentional shootings, just like your motor vehicle insurance will not cover liability if you intentionally drive down the opposing lane at full speed. Fatalities and injuries from accidental (negligent) discharge are a tiny minority among fatalities and injuries from intentional shootings. Requiring gun owners to purchase liability insurance only creates a financial impediment to the exercise of one's rights.

They Say: “It is a sick society when everyone is so afraid they arm themselves to the point where their own guns are used against them.”

You Say:

A: It’s an even sicker society that threatens to put law-abiding citizens in jail for exercising or possessing the tools for their natural right to self-defense.

B: I agree, it’s a sick society. Do you know when my dad [grandfather, grandmother, etc.] was growing up, they’d take their hunting rifles on the bus to school during deer season? There was a riflery team in most schools? Back then you could get a rifle shipped right to your doorstep without a background check. Something has changed between then and now, and it ain’t the availability of guns. Guns have been there all the while, it’s only recently people have started to go crazy with them.

C: Looking at the actual numbers, almost no one who has a gun has ever used it to harm another human being. Almost no one who has a gun has ever used it to harm themselves. Almost no one who has a gun has accidentally injured themselves or others. Annually, we've got 10k murders involving a firearm. 20k suicides. A few hundred accidental deaths. This is out of 350 million guns in America, with a little less than half the population owning a gun.

D: Where did your sense of entitlement come from? What makes you think you were promised a safe and secure world when you were born into it? Violence and criminal behavior is really part and parcel of the history of humankind. You are not guaranteed a risk-free life.

E: Depends on where you live in that society. In Vermont, in any given year, you can count the number of “gun murders” on the fingers of one hand, and still have a

bunch of fingers left over. In contrast, Newark, New Jersey, sees that number of gun murders on a fairly typical weekend. And yet you basically need a writ straight from God to carry a gun in New Jersey, they have that level of strict gun control. Why are guns in Vermont not a problem, while guns in New Jersey are? Vermont is, if anything, just as blue as NJ politically. And, yet, statistics show that with 75% or so of the population armed in Vermont, blood does not run in the streets like it does in Newark.

F: If firearms caused murder, then Switzerland, Israel and Norway would have murder rates similar to the U.S., and places like Ireland, Scotland, Mexico, Jamaica, Bermuda, Bahamas and Sri Lanka would have low rates. Neither is true.

They Say: “Why shouldn’t doctors be allowed to ask if you've got guns in your home? They already ask if you use car seats, if you buckle up when you drive, if you keep your poisons locked away, and about your smoking habits.”

You Say:

A: Whichever way I answer, it will wind up in electronic records (medical or otherwise) which then can be hacked. If I answer “no,” I'm a potential target for burglars. If I answer “yes,” I'm a potential target for gun thieves. So “no comment” is the only rational answer.

B: It’s really none of their business. They can *ask* all they want, but I don’t have to answer.

C: My doctor is like my mechanic. I bring my car to the mechanic to get it running again when a part is broken. I don’t want to know what my mechanic thinks of highway safety and vehicle deaths. I bring my body to the doctor when a part of

me is broken. I don't want to know what my doctor thinks of civil liberties and firearm rights.

D: As a responsible gun owner, I know more about the safe operation and storage of firearms than most doctors do.

E: You know how you get those letters from your health insurance company and your pharmacy telling you that it's time for a medication refill or suggesting a new medication? Don't you think the healthcare industry knows a little too much about us already, storing all that in their databases?

F: While I trust my doctor to properly manage the maladies of old age, I know for a fact he doesn't know Jack Schitt about guns. Until he shows me certifications from one or another recognized training organizations, I've instructed him to NEVER mention firearms to me again.

They Say: "Having a gun in your house means the chances of you or a family member being shot are much higher than for those who live in homes without guns."

You Say:

A: . . . And having a dog increases the chances of a visitor or family member being bitten over those living in a home without a dog. As a responsible dog owner, I take steps to avoid people being bitten by teaching children (and other adults) how to properly behave around my dog and to properly train my dog how to behave around people. Much like gun owners should teach children how to act around an unsupervised gun ("Don't touch, get an adult!") and like how I am trained in the safe handling of my guns.

B: . . . And having a swimming pool increases the chances of a drowning over those living in a home without a pool. As a responsible pool owner, I take steps to avoid accidental drownings.

C: Anti-gunners act as if the individual has no influence over that questionable statistic in their own lives. As if a certain percentage of guns just magically come to life once a year and float around the house shooting at their owners and there's nothing they can do about it. Someone who has one rifle in their house that they keep unloaded and locked in a gun cabinet does not have the same level of risk as a meth head with five children living in a trailer with loaded Glocks strewn all over the coffee table at all times. Then there's everyone else in between. Quoting that stat is like quoting the drunk driving stats and claiming you have good chance of crashing your car while drunk. Well, I never drive drunk, because I'm responsible, so that stat doesn't apply to me.

D: If you ride a motorcycle, you have a higher risk of dying than if you drive a car, do you think people should be allowed to ride motorcycles? [If "yes":] Fine, so it's just a matter of what type of risk I choose. You choose to ride motorbikes, I choose to have a gun in my house. What a great country where we're allowed such freedoms! [If "no"]: Okay, so now you want to take away all the things that are somewhat risky in life in the name of safety. What's next? Swimming pools? Step ladders? Drain cleaner? How far are you going to go in restricting what we all can and cannot have so that we can attain a level of security that will never be one hundred percent assured?

They Say: "The idea that a regular person carrying a weapon could stop a mass shooter [a bad guy, a criminal, a robber, a mugger, an attacker, etc.] is ludicrous."

You Say:

A: Checkout out <http://www.reddit.com/r/dgu>, which documents daily many instances of successful self defense.

B: You don't have to shoot the attacker to scare him off. Many defensive gun uses are successful without a shot being fired.

C: On the contrary, there are plenty of instances of concealed carriers stopping would-be mass shooters. Just Google and you'll find them. Here's one recent one: <http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/doctor-2-shot-pennsylvania-hospital-article-1.1879032>

D: The Center for Disease Control, in a 2013 study commissioned by President Obama, noted that almost all national survey estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals. <http://www.nap.edu/read/18319/chapter/1>

E: You are forgetting a terribly important aspect of concealed carry: deterrence. There are countless times when a would-be attacker was fended off simply when the victim drew--not fired--the weapon. A gun doesn't need to be fired in order to be a successful used for self-defense.

F: Besides specific deterrence, there is more general deterrence. Would-be attackers think twice before acting in a place where there is a high probability that one or more people have weapons, though they don't know which ones, and that they are more likely to seek "soft targets" where they know there is a very low probability of resistance.

G: The historical evidence is clear. With almost no exceptions, mass shooters select a target-rich environment where they have a very low if not non-existent probability of being confronted with armed resistance during the initial phases of the incident. Further, these incidents typically end in one of three ways when the shooter is confronted with any armed resistance. These are suicide (most common), a shootout with the armed resistance (very uncommon) or total capitulation

(extremely rare). In all of these circumstances the danger to the innocent victims ends instantly as the shooter narrows their focus to the armed threat. It makes no difference if the armed resistance is from private security, a private citizen or law enforcement.

Comments:

There are plenty of sources for DGU numbers to be cited on this Wikipedia page:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_gun_use#Estimates_of_frequency

Sometimes in response to this sort of question you just have to overwhelm your opponent with information. You can copy and paste the following links to news items demonstrating cases where lawful gun owners used their firearms to protect themselves and others--just bury your opponent with actual cases of DGUs:

- <http://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/news/local/2015/05/27/fatal-shooting-ruled-self-defense-case/28036271/>
- <http://www.ksdk.com/story/news/crime/2015/05/25/neighbor-shot-self-defense-ann-ada/27903649/>
- <http://www.wsbtv.com/news/news/local/man-holds-would-be-carjacker-gunpoint-until-police/nmL4Z/>
- <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2015/05/19/dialysis-patient-pulls-gun-prevents-robbery/27590365/>
- http://www.foxnews.com/us/2015/05/17/mississippi-stick-up-ends-when-victim-shoots-kills-one-his-robbers/?intcmp=ob_article_footer_text&intcmp=obinsite
- <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/1-Killed-1-Hurt-in-Shooting-in-Redland-Miami-Dade-Police-304152061.html>
- https://www.facebook.com/AltoonaPD/posts/1116408318385729?_mref=message_bubble
- <http://www.wthr.com/story/28769522/one-robbery-suspect-in-custody-impd-seeks-two-others>
- <http://www.redding.com/news/local-news/man-wounded-in-shooting>
- <http://www.chicoer.com/general-news/20150511/police-woman-shoots-bb-gun-in-self-defense-during-domestic-incident>

- <http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2015/06/17/robbery-shot-and-killed-by-store-clerk-in-fort-worth/>
- <http://www.wcpo.com/news/local-news/butler-county/hamilton/hamilton-shooting-may-be-result-of-self-defense>
- <http://www.foxsanantonio.com/news/features/top-stories/stories/police-man-shoots-burglar-used-doggie-door-13502.shtml#.VZM47hNVhBe>
- <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2015/06/09/woman-hospital-gunfight-home-invaders/28727561/>
- <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/detroit-city/2015/06/08/woman-shoots-carjacking-suspect-detroits-west-side/28675567/>
- <http://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2015/06/07/tucson-fatal-shooting-argument-abrk/28656561/>
- <http://www.ktre.com/story/29229254/center-man-shoots-alleged-attacker-in-clear-case-of-self-defense>
- <http://denver.cbslocal.com/2015/05/31/da-on-aurora-triple-shooting-statutorily-codified-self-defense/>
- <http://www.whky.com/archive/item/6684-two-brothers-shot-in-wednesday-night-dispute-shooter-questioned-by-police#.VW7TJEvvZuZ>
- <http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Police-Covington-woman-shoots-ex-husband-in-self-defense-305190881.html>
- <http://www.wesh.com/news/orlando-teen-shoots-intruder-in-grandparents-home-police-say/33840622>
- <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/police-say-homeowner-shoots-intruder/33816410>
- <http://www.news-leader.com/story/news/crime/2015/06/27/police-suspect-shot-alleged-burglary/29381673/>
- <http://www.wyff4.com/news/Woman-kills-60-year-old-man-apparently-in-self-defense-deputies-say/33791692>
- <http://www.wmbfnews.com/story/29421366/police-greer-man-shoots-son-in-defense-after-knife-attack>
- <http://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/Hollywood-Dominos-Pizza-Delivery-Worker-Shoots-Kills-Attempted-Robber-Police-309483001.html>
- <http://www.clickorlando.com/news/brevard-county-newspaper-deliveryman-claims-self-defense-in-shooting/33758784>
- <http://www.vindy.com/news/2015/jun/22/police-investigate-mans-death-following-bar-fight/>

- <http://www.guns.com/2015/06/24/no-charges-for-attorney-who-fatally-shot-client-video/>
- <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/detroit-coney-island-employee-shoots-kills-armed-robber/33697360>
- <http://fox6now.com/2015/07/27/video-shows-attempted-burglary-shooting-at-boucard-hards-owner-says-i-dont-come-to-work-to-have-a-shootout/>
- <http://www.uniondemocrat.com/News/Local-News/Tuolumne-man-dies-in-Angels-Camp-shooting>
- <http://nypost.com/2015/07/01/ex-cnn-anchor-survives-wild-motel-shootout/>
- <http://www.wsoctv.com/news/news/local/cmpd-2-injured-shooting-belmont-neighborhood/nmpJh/>
- <http://www.kob.com/article/stories/s3840360.shtml#.VZUI99-c0WM>
- <http://www.wyff4.com/news/deputies-appears-woman-shoots-man-in-selfdefense/33899018>
- <http://www.atoz.pw/preview/r/www.charlotteobserver.com/news/local/crime/article25823620.html>
- http://www.courierpress.com/news/local-news/southern-illinois/police-double-shooting-was-selfdefense_30612810
- <http://www.abqjournal.com/605911/news/dominos-delivery-man-shot-alleged-robber-in-self-defense-apd-says.html>
- <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/breaking-news/os-uber-driver-shoots-passenger-20150629-story.html>
- <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/lake-county-news-sun/news/ct-wauconda-robbery-shooting-death-20150824-story.html>
- <http://www.news3lv.com/mostpopular/story/north-las-vegas-kieawa-mason-andrew-rifle-break-in/KcRf0Pi7l0aWPgBLjnYSaA.csp#.Vde8Q2phZk8.facebook>
- <http://www.khou.com/story/news/crime/2015/08/20/deputies-homeowner-shoots-burglary-suspect--nw-harris-county/32057059/>
- <http://www.ohio.com/news/local/akron-homeowner-charged-in-fatal-shooting-after-his-home-was-invaded-1.616878>
- <http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/lorain-county/2015/08/12/suspect-shot-killed-by-lorain-resident-during-home-invasion/31535455/>
- <http://abc13.com/news/contractor-shoots-teen-suspect-during-attempted-burglary/925103/>
- <http://www.khou.com/story/news/crime/2015/08/07/hcso-suspected-burglar-fatally-shot-homeowner-n-harris-co/31321267/>

- <http://www.wkyc.com/story/news/local/akron/2015/08/07/akron-home-invasion/31305437/>
- <http://www.wfmynews2.com/story/news/2015/08/07/homeowner-shoots-intruder-georgia/31281081/>
- <http://www.news3lv.com/content/news/local/story/las-vegas-spencer-tropicana-attempt-armed-robbery/Og2lOq2Q3Em5MWbozv9lwg.csp?rss=3269>
- http://m.wfmz.com/berks-regional-news/Market-employees-shoot-and-kill-masked-robbers-in-Reading/36188568?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook_WFMZ
- <http://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/oakland-county/2015/10/28/son-fatal-y-shot-mom-farmington-hills/74727650/>
- <http://jacksonville.com/news/crime/2015-10-26/story/jacksonville-police-arrest-accused-robber-pizza-deliveryman-who-shot-him>
- <http://kfor.com/2015/10/26/officials-man-kills-alleged-intruder-in-his-driveway-investigation-underway/>
- <http://www.abc2news.com/news/crime-checker/baltimore-city-crime/armed-bar-employee-shoots-robber>
- <http://patch.com/georgia/loganville/loganville-man-not-charged-shooting-death-brother-law>
- http://ravallirepublic.com/news/local/article_688ec872-7792-11e5-8dce-ab6b66e59370.html
- <http://www.13abc.com/home/headlines/Toledo-man-with-concealed-carry-permit-shoots-armed-robbery-suspect-334869301.html>
- http://www.wxyz.com/news/region/detroit/pastor-shoots-kills-man-who-threatened-him-inside-small-detroit-church?google_editors_picks=true
- <http://www.guns.com/2015/10/16/police-say-grandpa-shooting-grandson-is-clear-cut-case-of-self-defense/>
- <http://6abc.com/news/victim-turns-the-table-on-robbers-in-ne-philadelphia/1087899/>
- <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3329357/Incredible-moment-elderly-couple-turned-tables-burglar-held-gunpoint-catching-loading-belongings-stolen-SUV.html?ito=social-facebook>
- At this point, this list is taking up too much room in this guide, so it will be continued to be updated in a separate document. To get more stories of defensive gun uses, go to <https://goo.gl/Gd0oYj> .

They Say: "Women shouldn't carry guns to prevent assault. Statistics show that a woman who carries a gun is more likely to have it turned against her during an assault than incapacitate her attacker with it."

You Say:

A: "Be not afraid of any man/No matter what his size/Take me in your good right hand/And I will equalize." (Engraved on the ivory grip of a Colt Single Action Army .45 Colt.)

B: "God made man, but Samuel Colt made them equal."

C: A woman's self-defense ability is often limited by her size and strength. Keen situational awareness partnered with a reliable handgun is a great equalizer when in the hands of a trained woman.

D: Might be true, might not, but in any case, you don't get to make that decision for that woman.

Comments:

Source for C: <http://womenandguns.org/mission-statement/>

They Say: “England [or Europe] has extremely restrictive gun control laws and hence a lower murder rate than America. We should learn something and attempt to emulate their system.”

You Say:

A: Do you want to emulate a country where the only legal form of self-defense is a rape whistle? <https://www.askthe.police.uk/content/Q589.htm>

B: Do you want to emulate a country where you have to be 18 to buy kitchen knives? <https://www.gov.uk/buying-carrying-knives>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BytBNt7_gHw4Q1NxcW5BREM3ekU/view?usp=sharing

C: The difference between a “subject” and a “citizen” is that the latter has the right to keep and bear arms.

D: Really, there are so many differences in culture between the U.K. and the U.S. on this point that it’s not even worth comparing. It goes all the way back to the Revolutionary days, and the reasons for why we rebelled against Britain. The U.S. is the only former British Empire possession that won its independence *by force, through revolution*. Then, after the revolutionaries won, all the pro-England statist still in the U.S. trucked off to Canada, leaving the revolutionaries here even more concentrated. That’s one small reason why we have the culture we do here, in the U.S.

E: Hey, I can guarantee you almost 90 percent safety, if you just let me control your life. Problem is, you’ll have to give up most all your civil liberties in doing so. China goes so far as to limit the number of kids a family can have in order to

engineer a desired society. The Arab states don't allow any alcohol. The American-style of individual freedom inherently assumes risk.

F: European nations with strict gun control laws have substantially higher murder rates than those that do not. For example, Russia, where only 3 in 100 people own a gun, has a murder rate of about 20 people per 100,000, whereas Finland, where 39 in 100 own guns, has a murder rate of only 2 per 100,000.

G: Did you know that in Austria over 70,000 shotguns were sold in 2015 so far? People in countries all over Europe want to buy more guns because, rightly or wrongly, fairly or not, they fear for their safety due to migrant populations entering their countries. Women are mostly driving the sales in Austria. Virtually all shotguns are currently sold out, because you don't need a permit for them there. There are an estimated 900,000 firearms out of a population of 8.5 million in Austria.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3291978/Shotguns-virtually-sold-Austria-citizens-rush-buy-arms-amid-fears-massive-influx-migrants-dealers-claim.html>

H: Despite having a very high rate of private gun ownership, Switzerland has very little gun violence. Swiss gun homicides stood at 0.2389 per 100,000 residents in 2010 despite the fact that they are third in the world in terms of numbers of firearms owned by private individuals. This figure is among the lowest in the world. It has less to do with the availability of the guns and more to do with the culture and values of the people using them.

I: According to the United Nations, the U.K. is 4th in the world in total crimes per capita, whereas the U.S. is only 22nd.

J: Some places in the U.S. have even stricter gun regulations than Europe. Take New Jersey, for example. In New Jersey, you need to submit a form for a FID (Firearms Identification Card). To do this you have to answer a bunch of questions, supply three references, specify as to where you work, your home address and phone number. There is also a form called "consent to mental health check." This is a check to ensure have never been on any psychiatric drugs. The local police in

your township will call your boss, as well as two people for references (form sts-033). Roughly 80% of townships require an interview with a police officer. The police officer is there to judge you and will deny you at that stage. If they trust you, you have to give fingerprints. They run three state as well as federal background checks. If you are able to pass you can now purchase a BB gun, muzzle-loader long arm, approved shotguns and rifles. Yes, that's right you need a FID for a Red Ryder BB gun in New Jersey. Now, there hasn't been a single town in New Jersey where the FID has been approved in less than three months for 20 or so years (according to <http://njhunters.com>). So if you want a BB gun rifle the general wait is 6-8 months, even though it is explicitly stated in NJ law it can not take more than 30 days. Now say you want a handgun. It is the same exact process over again, and you can apply for three at a time. However, there is a one firearm per month law in NJ, and NJ is notorious for letting people who apply for pistols stamps know they have them late. In New Jersey hunting with a rifle is illegal. Sling-shots are prohibited weapons. When you have a firearm in NJ you can transport it to up to four places, your work, the range, your home, the gun shop, and where you are "known to hunt." Any deviation is a mandatory minimum 5 years in jail. These are stricter laws than are found in Switzerland and Germany.

Source for J: <https://redd.it/3y6aw0>

Comments:

Source for F:

http://www.law.harvard.edu/students/orgs/jlpp/Vol30_No2_KatesMauseronline.pdf

This PDF in particular is packed full of pro-gun data and arguments. It's worth reading through.

Source for H:

<http://www.finemrespice.com/node/122>

Source for I:

<http://www.nationmaster.com/country-info/stats/Crime/Total-crimes-per-1000>

They Say: "Gun owners are just a bunch of rednecks."

You Say:

A: Rednecks are tough. Independent. Resourceful. Resilient. Rednecks will be around even after all the cockroaches have died off after the nuclear holocaust. They'll be the first ones you run to to protect you in the zombie apocalypse.

B: Well, now we see your class prejudice surfacing finally, don't we? Are you sure your dislike of guns isn't just because of your dislike of lower-class rural people? That's pretty offensive!

C: Oh, right, that's why Whoopie Goldberg and James Earl Jones are both members of the NRA, I suppose, 'cause they're rednecks, right?

D: Well, let's see, living in the country, I can wake up in the morning, go out the back door and smell the fresh air, and as the songbirds sing above my head take a whiz off my back porch, pause for a moment to shoot off a couple of magazines with my AR-15 at some old washing machines in the back yard, take another whiz, and no one cares or gives a crap. If that's not freedom, I don't know what is. Remember that the next time as you lie awake at 2 AM and can't sleep because of all the noise through the paper-thin walls of the people in the apartment next door having loud sex and you got to get up in three hours to get ready to drive for an hour to work to sit all day staring at the gray walls of your cubicle with all the other cattle, pretending to work while you ruminate on your meaningless life.

E: This is the problem when talking with statisticians. You want to dictate how others should live their lives, then cry foul if someone rejects your control. You are obsessed with placing labels on everyone and everything, particularly with people that disagree with you. Instead of presenting facts, you rather demonize opposition and label them as "others" who are lesser than you in culture, intelligence, etc. You

seek to delegitimize the people that disagree with you, since their views don't fit with your world view. It doesn't make you right, it simply makes you an oppressor.

F: Well, in a way you have a point. Gun control really does have classist overtones. It's supposed to be an egalitarian society in the U.S., where everyone is created equal. At least that's what they taught me in school. Well, we all know that that isn't true, some people have it better than others and it isn't just because they worked harder to get it. But one of the remaining ways that the lower classes--including rednecks--still have some voice in their fates is because they still have guns. I mean, you call them "rednecks," a derogatory term, and then in the next breath you wonder why they fight so hard to keep their guns. It's so classist bigots such as yourself can't push them around with your money, your power. Guns are pretty powerful persuaders. You might be able to boss around a class of armed people, even if they have guns, but chances are good you'll get shot at when you try it. It'll make you think twice. Thank God for the Founders, they knew how to actually put some teeth into the "All men are created equal" idea.

Comments:

For "C" above, a Google search will confirm that this is true from any number of sources.

They Say: "Gun owners are just a bunch of ammosexuals /gun nuts /gun fetishists/ lunatics/ terrorists/ murderers/ gun huggers/ gun fondlers/ murderers."

You Say:

A: Thanks for the pejorative bigotry. You realize 90,000,000 U.S. citizens are gun owners and you just called all of them insane [murderers, terrorists, etc.]? Kinda makes you the extremist in this situation.

B: You are prejudiced against a huge group. You probably have friends and family who own guns. Are they insane [murderers, terrorists, etc.]? I feel really sorry for you, man. I can't believe that you actually think 1/3rd of this country is insane. Don't you realize how idiotic that is?

C: I appreciate that you are using your 1st Amendment rights to ridicule [attack, slander, etc.] my 2nd Amendment rights. Fortunately for you, it's the 2nd Amendment that ensures the preservation of the 1st.

D: One man's terrorist is another man's patriot. One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter.

E: And yet, yesterday, 84,999,989 firearm owners killed no one.

F: I'm really not just pro-2nd Amendment, I actually support the ENTIRE Bill of Rights. It's just that the 2nd is the one that seems to be explicitly and overtly under attack in politics and society right now. Believe me, I am as passionate about the 1st, the 4th, the 5th, and the rest of the Amendments as I am about the 2nd. I just happen to think that it's the 2nd that ultimately ensures the survival of the others.

G: Gun fetishist, eh? Who is the real gun fetishist? Do you like to watch action movies where there's a lot of gun violence? Do you like to play video games? You know the portrayals of firearms and their use in that kind of entertainment bears little resemblance to real life, right? Guns don't shoot like that, people aren't made invincible, you can't blow away all the bad guys without getting hit, your gun doesn't magically never run out of bullets, you can't hit a moving target at 100 yards very easily, shooting a car won't make it explode, you probably are going to be screaming if you are actually ever shot, if you aren't in shock. What you are watching is simply gun porn. Who's the gun fetishist now? At least my knowledge of firearms is grounded in reality.

They Say: “40 percent of all guns are purchased without a background check.”

You Say:

A: That’s an entirely false claim based on old study with a very limited sample size and a misunderstanding of how guns are sold and transferred. Doesn’t stop anti-gun politicians from bandying the statistic around as if it was fact, though. Makes you wonder just how much in pursuit of the “truth” they are, or if they’re just saying whatever they think will make you vote for them.

B: Here are the details, if you want them: That number is derived from [studies](#) that were based on [data collected from a survey in 1994](#), the same year that the Brady Act requirements for background checks came into effect. In fact, the questions concerned purchases dating as far back as 1991, and the Brady Act went into effect in early 1994--meaning that some, if not many, of the guns were bought in a pre-Brady environment. The survey sample was relatively small--just 251 people. (The survey was done by telephone, using a random-digit-dial method, with a response rate of 50 percent.) With this sample size, the 95 percent confidence interval will be plus or minus six percentage points. The analysis concluded that 35.7 percent of respondents indicated they did not receive the gun from a licensed firearms dealer. Rounding up gets you to 40 percent, although the survey sample is so small it could also be rounded down to 30 percent. Moreover, when gifts, inheritances and prizes are added in, then the number shrinks to 26.4 percent. (The survey showed that nearly 23.8 percent of the people surveyed obtained their gun either as a gift or inherited it, and about half of them believed a licensed firearms dealer was the source.) The original report carefully uses terms such as “acquisitions” and “transactions,” which included trades, gifts and the like. This subtlety is lost on many politicians such as Hillary Clinton, who have used the statistic to refer to “sales.”

C: When the 40 percent figure is bandied about, it's overlooked that it confounds *actual purchases* of firearms with *legal transfers*. For example, Obama said this in 2013:

"Why wouldn't we want to close the loophole that allows as many as 40 percent of all gun purchases to take place without a background check?"

This statement is simply not true because of the word "purchases." The 40 percent figure includes legal transfers like gifts, inheritance, and so forth. According to the Washington Post:

". . . we have documented that (a) the survey numbers are about two decades old, so they include purchases that predate any background checks; (b) the survey sample is rather small; and (c) the results are significantly different when adjusted for "purchases" or "sales" — the phrasing used by the president."

Comments:

Source:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/wp/2015/10/16/clintons-claim-that-40-percent-of-guns-are-sold-at-gun-shows-and-over-the-internet/>

Source for C:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/obamas-continued-use-of-the-claim-that-40-percent-of-gun-sales-lack-background-checks/2013/04/01/02e06ce-9b0f-11e2-a941-a19bce7af755_blog.html

They Say: "If we didn't have so many guns, and military-style guns, the police wouldn't need to militarize themselves."

You Say:

A: What makes you think that, even if every private gun was taken away from non-law enforcement, that they would give up their military-like weapons? You got any evidence for that? Seems to go against human nature.

B: Maybe in a fantasy world. In this world, even if all honest, law-abiding citizens gave up their guns, there would be plenty of black market AK-47s that the police would need to worry about.

C: I don't know if you've been paying attention, but there have been a lot of high-profile incidents of police excessive use of force or just plain brutality recently. And now you're arguing to make the balance of power even more uneven? What do we have to protect ourselves with from the 10% of cops who aren't good people? I think it should be the other way around, let's first demilitarize the police, then we can start talk about the citizenry standing down.

D: You don't know too much about guns. Many or most hunting rifles are more powerful than the so-called military-style "assault weapons," which are typically chambered in .223 or .22. Are you calling for hunters to give up their hunting rifles because they could theoretically "outgun police"?

They Say: “What we need is a 1000% tax surcharge on guns or ammunition, or both. This would reduce the number of gun sales. Guns would still be legal to purchase, just extremely expensive.”

You Say:

A: What about a \$1000 poll tax to be able to vote? Or a \$10,000 tax to obtain a demonstration permit? Or a \$5000 tax for getting an abortion? This is paper-thin reasoning, and of course it wouldn't pass Constitutional scrutiny.

B: A right doesn't have to be banned outright to be infringed. There is case law surrounding this on freedom of press: a politician tried to restrict newspapers that were reporting about him unfavorably by taxing a class of newspapers to which they belonged. The courts declared that extra taxation of a right is unconstitutional.

C: I want to stress the danger of what you are trying to do. Any rule you want to use to control guns, apply the same method to restrict access of other Constitutional rights as exemplified in abortion, the internet, computers, journalism, religion, protests. If the predicted results abhor you, then you shouldn't advocate for the same method against guns. Respect rights until you can get them revoked if you are so dead set against them, anything less will result in those same methods being used against rights you yourself are in favor of.

D: I guess you think that only rich people should be able to exercise their civil liberties, huh?

E: This is obviously a backdoor attempt to ban or severely limit guns. What other purpose would it serve? Basically what you're saying is that because a

straight-forward attack on gun rights isn't working, we should find other ways to keep guns out of civilian hands. Why don't you just be honest and call it what it is.

F: Are you suggesting that criminals purchase their guns over-the-counter, legally? Where do you think the gangbangers in Chicago are getting their guns? It's not from a federal firearm licensee.

They Say: "We don't need to ban guns. We just need to ban bullets" and/or "We don't need gun control. What we need is bullet control."

You Say:

A: I guess you don't know much about the technology of reloading? It's plenty easy to make your own ammunition at home.

B: Ammo is considered part of "arms" in the Second Amendment. A gun isn't useful without ammunition, therefore if you restrict the right to buy and sell ammo, you're infringing on the right to keep and bear arms.

C: It made for a funny Chris Rock routine, but such propositions should remain where they belong--in comedy clubs. Hopefully you're not confusing comedy with true discussions on civil liberties. We use Constitutional scholars to decide those matters, not comedians.

They Say: "There should be laws requiring gun owners to lock up their guns when they aren't in use."

You Say:

A: Obviously keeping your firearms safely stored is a good idea, especially if kids are around. That said, one popular use of firearms is for self-defense. That kind of

goes against the whole “always lock up your gun” philosophy, for obvious reasons. When seconds count, you don’t want to be fumbling around for a key to your gun.

B: A law? How in the world would you enforce this? Don’t we have enough unenforceable gun laws already? Is someone from the police going to come by every month to check to see if your guns are safely locked up? Who’s going to pay to create this new oversight? Who will pay for the additional resources needed? What’s to prevent the gun from being improperly locked up the rest of the month when the official’s not there?

C: I have a great idea. How about we go back to doing what we USED to do that worked: education. When I was a kid, we had NRA classes in our schools. We also had kids bringing guns to school for show and tell, we had a gun safe in the office for kids who didn't want to leave their hunting rifles and shotguns in their lockers or in their cars in the parking lot. See, in an earlier day in rural America, we hunted before and after school and we weren't taught to fear guns, but how to properly act around them, how to treat them and to respect them and lo and behold, we had no problems. Now we teach kids that guns are evil and bad and hide them and seem to forget that it's human nature for kids and even adults to be curious and seek out that which they are told they cannot have. Thus no education, no respect, nothing but curious little monkeys looking for that forbidden apple.

They Say: “There should be laws requiring gun owners to report a lost or stolen gun.”

You Say:

A: The problem with this is, it’s punishing the victim. When someone’s car gets stolen and the thief ends up hurting someone with it, do we blame the owner of the vehicle? No! We rightfully put responsibility where it belongs--on the criminal.

B: Even worse, there is the possibility that since it’s easy to identify the gun owner, the gun owner will become, unconsciously, the wrongdoer in the eyes of the

authorities. Let's say someone steals a gun, it doesn't get reported because maybe the owner doesn't realize it's been stolen, and then a month later the gun is used to kill someone. The murderer is unknown and there are few clues as to his identity. Like most murders, this one isn't going to be solved. But who is there to absorb the blame? The gun owner, who is actually the victim in this scenario! It is easy to imagine, when you consider human nature, that the fury of the legal system will come down on the gun owner *unreasonably and inordinately*, because the person who truly holds the blame can't be caught. The gun owner will be there to act like a pinata to absorb the blows that the killer should be receiving.

C: Sure it's a good idea to report a lost or stolen firearm. But it shouldn't be *mandatory*. The mandatory part is what we have a problem with, because it opens the door for corruption and abuse.

D: Most responsible gun owners are going to report a lost or stolen gun even without a law, because in order to report the claim to their insurance, they're going to need a police report.

E: So, a criminal steals your gun and hurts someone with it, and now you say the original gun owner is responsible because he had some vague link to that crime, and now you want him locked up. I have a similar idea, why not lock up the killer's parents for raising a murderer while we're at it? Or maybe we can just take the sane approach of holding the person who actually did it accountable.

They Say: "The states with the strictest gun laws have the fewest gun deaths."

You Say:

A: The *Washington Post*, a typically liberal paper, invested this claim and gave it two Pinocchios, which means it's mostly false.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2015/10/05/obamas-claim-that-states-with-the-most-gun-laws-tend-to-have-the-fewest-gun-deaths/>

B: Then can you explain why gun-friendly Virginia doesn't have a single city that makes the top 100 most deadly U.S. city list?

C: Let's look at three island territories/states of the U.S.: Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii. These are good to look at because they aren't subject to the claim that "gun deaths would be lower in strict-gun-control places like Chicago, but permissive gun laws from outside allow guns to flow inside the city." In contrast, these are isolated spots, totally surrounded by water. These islands must be reached by air travel, where the carry of firearms is highly regulated and restricted, or by ship.

- The U.S. Virgin Islands has extremely restrictive gun control. The murder rate in the U.S. Virgin Islands was [32.9 per 100,000 in 2013](#).
- Puerto Rico also has extremely restrictive laws. The murder rate in Puerto Rico in 2013 was [24.4 per 100,000 population](#). That is over 5 times the average rate for the entire United States.
- Hawaii has strict gun control, but not as strict as the U.S. Virgin Islands, rather more similar to the restrictions in Puerto Rico. The murder rate in Hawaii is much lower than the average in the United States. In [2013 it was 1.5 per 100,000](#) population, about one third of the United States average or [4.5 per 100,000](#).

Three United States island polities with quite similar, strict, gun control laws. Two have murder rates more than 7 and 5 times greater than the United States average; one has a murder rate one third as great as the United States average. It is clear that the gun control laws are not a major factor in the rate of murder. The tendency of a people toward murder must not be because of the availability of guns, but because of something else.

Comments:

Source for B:

<http://www.neighborhoodscout.com/neighborhoods/crime-rates/top100dangerous/>
<http://www.ammoland.com/2015/10/gun-friendly-virginia-not-a-single-city-in-top-100-most-dangerous-u-s-cities/>

Source for C:

<http://www.ammoland.com/2015/12/three-u-s-islands-with-strict-gun-control-and-their-murder-rates/>

They Say: “Why are gun owners so afraid of registration, anyway? If you’re a law-abiding gun owner, you have nothing to worry about.”

You Say:

A: It helps to understand if you consider that gun control isn’t really about controlling guns--it’s about controlling people. Registration is just a way to control people and the actions they make. Unfortunately, registration assumes that every gun owner is a potential criminal and treats them accordingly. That’s really at cross purposes to what a civil liberty is supposed to be about.

B: Doesn’t it really come down to the “shall not be infringed”? There’s already a huge disparity in the words constituting the 2nd Amendment versus how it is applied in practice (especially depending on the state you live in). How many restrictions and qualifications can you place on a right until it is no longer truly a right? And while it’s true the Supreme Court in *Heller* has asserted that “reasonable restrictions” can be placed on gun ownership, it’s a slippery slope, a line in the sand that has already been crossed. According to the US Supreme Court it is unconstitutional to :

- Require a precondition on the exercising of a right. (Guinn v US 1915, Lane v Wilson 1939); (ATF FORM 4473, CCW, "Cooling-off" period)

- Require a license (government permission) to exercise a right. (Murdock v PA 1943, Lowell v City of Griffin 1939, Freedman v MD 1965, Near v MN 1931, Miranda v AZ 1966); (CCW)
- Delay the exercising of a right. (Org. for a Better Austin v Keefe 1971); (ATF FORM 4473, CCW, "Cooling-off" period)
- Charge a fee for the exercising of a right. (Harper v Virginia Board of Elections 1966); (CCW)
- Register (record in a government database) the exercising of a right. (Thomas v Collins 1945, Lamont v Postmaster General 1965, Haynes v US 1968); (ATF FORM 4473, CCW)

. . . and yet we see all these applied to gun ownership, even though the constitutionality is questionable.

C: How about you give me a list of all the books, articles, magazines, web sites, and movies you've read or watched in the past year or so? How do you feel about that? If you have nothing to hide, you won't mind, right? What's that, it's none of my business? Exactly my point.

D: Would you willingly tell a potential enemy where you keep your means to defending your family and neighbours?

E: Let's turn on our imagination for a moment and think of World War II. After all, WWII wasn't all that long ago, historically speaking. Do you think it really couldn't happen here? If so, why? Have humans and human nature changed so much in that time that people are no longer greedy for power, there is no hatred toward groups of people like the Jews? What would you say are the chances it couldn't happen here--five percent? One percent? Can you assure me it's an impossibility? Would you willingly tell a Nazi where your means of self-defense was stored?

F: Registration works perfectly well--if creating hundreds of thousands of felons with a stroke of a pen is your goal. After Sandy Hook, New York state made

registration of sporting rifles mandatory, but they got only about 45,000 registration forms turned in . . . out of an estimated 1 million weapons.

G: You share a faith in authority that I can't share. While the majority of police are dedicated to serving the common good, we all know some abuse their authority even to the point of defying the very laws they are supposed to enforce. As an example, take a look at what happened in Atlanta, where police were/are illegally holding onto confiscated firearms even though they are mandated by law to return them to their lawful owners, if possible, or sell them.

<http://politics.blog.ajc.com/2015/11/07/atlanta-sits-on-6000-confiscated-guns-and-wont-sell-them/>

They Say: "Rosie O'Donnell [Jim Carrey, Justin Bieber, Amy Schumer, etc.] says that guns are bad and we need more gun control."

You Say:

A: Are you kidding me? Do you know how out of control her and other celebrities' lives are? Are you suggesting we take policy or civil rights or legal direction from *entertainers*? You've got to be kidding me.

B: I prefer to base my civil rights philosophy not on the vapid babblings of Hollywood celebrities, but on the writings of more credible thinkers like Martin Luther King, Jr., Mahatma Gandhi, the Dalai Lama, and George Orwell, all of whom showed a respect for firearm rights in their writings, especially for self-defense.

C: Anyone in this country in a position of power--politicians, entertainers, sports stars--should have to give up their armed security before they say anything else about disarming the average American citizen. Protection for me, but not for thee, is an unacceptable practice.

D: You know, I might take what these Hollywood types say a lot more seriously if but for the fact that a lot of them make an incredible amount of money portraying characters in violent, gun-centered movies. Not only does it make them hypocrites, I think it actually makes them part of the problem, in the way that gun violence is glorified and fetishized in popular movies. It also disseminates false information about how guns work. For example, how many times in a movie you've seen the hero get shot up with bullets and still manages to face the bad guy? In real life that dude is going to be dead from blood loss and/or in shock within a couple minutes. When people's only source of knowledge about guns comes from movies and such like this, they're going to be very, very confused about the damage firearms can do, how to safely use them, the tradition and heritage behind gun ownership, a whole lot of other important things.

E: Absolutely my favorite hypocrite on Earth is Liam Neeson whining about the sickness of American gun culture ... as he reaps tens of millions from Taken movies. What a guy!

F: When does the American public start blaming Hollywood with its violent murderous tv shows, movies and the video game makers for Xbox and Playstation? Shows like Spartacus, Sons of Anarchy, Homeland, Criminal Minds, Nikita (averages 7 deaths a show), Stalker, Hannibal, 48 Hours. And of course keep buying your kids Xbox and Playstation video games such as Blue Estate, Dark Souls II, Grand Theft Auto V. If companies like Nike, Apple, and Microsoft can use advertisements to make you stand in line for hours to buy their products, what do you really think happens to the average kid's brain watching or playing games hour after hour for months on end? I'm not saying every kid who plays video games or watches violent movies is going turn into a mass killer. But what if one out of every 100,000 does?

G: When do people start blaming the media for making these mass murderers famous by blasting their names all over TV, newspapers, and internet whenever there's a mass shooting? We ought to be striving to remember the victims' names and forgetting the names of the crazed killers. Many mass shooters come straight out and say that they do it for fame, so don't tell me it doesn't play a role, and

don't tell me there aren't other solutions we can try before we take away gun rights from law-abiding citizens who never did anything wrong.

H: [Continuing with G] For instance, the Umpqua Community College shooter wrote this on his blog about two shootings: one about Vester Flanagan, who killed two local news reporters in Virginia, and one about the officer slain near Houston in August. Speaking of Flanagan, the blog post reads: "I have noticed that so many people like him are all alone and unknown, yet when they spill a little blood, the whole world knows who they are. A man who was known by no one, is now known by everyone. His face splashed across every screen, his name across the lips of every person on the planet, all in the course of one day. Seems the more people you kill, the more you're in the limelight."

Comments:

Sources for B:

<http://www.snopes.com/politics/guns/dalailama.asp>

Gandhi, An Autobiography, M. K. Gandhi, page 446. Gandhi said this: "I used to issue leaflets asking people to enlist as recruits. One of the arguments I had used was distasteful to the Commissioner: 'Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms as the blackest. If we want the Arms Act to be repealed, if we want to learn the use of arms, here is a golden opportunity. If the middle class render voluntary help to Government in the hour of its trial, distrust will disappear, and the ban on possessing arms will be withdrawn.' The Commissioner referred to this and said that he appreciated my presence in the conference in spite of the differences between us. And I had to justify my standpoint as courteously as I could."

"Nonviolence: The Only Road to Freedom." King, Jr., Martin Luther. In the subsection "The Question of Self-Defense," King says: "It goes without saying that people will protect their homes. This is a right guaranteed by the Constitution and respected even in the worst areas of the South."

Source for G: <http://boards.straightdope.com/sdmb/showthread.php?t=675710> . This forum thread points to several instances where mass killers have explicitly said they killed for fame.

Source for H:

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/02/us/oregon-umpqua-community-college-shooting/>

They Say: “We need to restrict guns in order to prevent school shootings/mass murder.”

You Say:

A: Something needs to be done to help prevent school shootings, but restricting guns isn't it. Did you know that the worse school mass killing in U.S. history, the Bath school massacre, wasn't done with guns at all, but with a pickup truck full of explosives? 38 kids and 6 adults were murdered. Let's not fool ourselves, and let's not lose focus, the guns are not the primary root cause here. It's sick, twisted, evil people who are hell-bent on doing harm.

B: For every one mass shooter, there are millions of responsible, law-abiding gun owners who will never do anything slightly illegal or nefarious with their guns. Whatever solution you come up with, you'll have to find a way that doesn't infringe on their Constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

C: Of all of the things that could possibly contribute to people going crazy and shooting up schools--the society we live in and lack of compassion and morality, the violence demonstrated in video games and in movies, rap songs . . . the pharmaceuticals a lot of these kids are on . . . the lack of respect for human life . . . and so much more . . . of all the things you want to leap to in order to solve the problem, you choose to pick a fundamental Constitutional right?? Can't we talk about all the other low-hanging fruit before we start an attack on an essential civil liberty? Could you have picked anything more controversial to start with?

D: Every recent mass shooting except for a couple in recent years has occurred in a gun-free zone. Obviously it's because the shooters know they will be met with little resistance there. We need to remove the gun-free zones in and around schools. We can debate the specifics--pros and cons of hiring armed guards, arming teachers, whatever--after we agree on that.

E: A psycho doesn't really need guns to kill people in large numbers. The Oklahoma City bomber used a homemade fertilizer bomb. The 9-11 killers used boxcutters and jets. The Happy Land murder only used gasoline and a lighter to take out 87 people. The 2015 Las Vegas car murderer used a car to drive up onto the sidewalk on the Strip, mowing people down. It's unhelpful and dangerous to focus too narrowly just on the tool used (gun, bomb, gas) and overlook or downplay the primary problem in these situation, which is the murderer.

Comments:

Source for A: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bath_School_disaster

Source for E: https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_City_bombing

They Say: "Every gun should have a GPS tracking device built in that instantly transmits the coordinates of the gun to the police whenever it's fired."

You Say:

A: There are so many reasons why this wouldn't work. First off, how does the fact that the police would hypothetically know where a gun was fired in any way prevent that crime, after the fact? A lot of criminals will just use a throwaway gun for a murder anyway, and drop the gun at the scene.

B: Who is going to pay for the millions of dollars of technology that will be required to retrofit police stations for this to work?

C: I don't think you understand how GPS works. GPS only allows a device (like your phone) to figure out from a satellite where it is at any point in time. What you are really talking about is a combination of a GPS unit and some sort of transmitter that is embedded in the gun. A GPS unit inside a gun is hard enough; a transmitter, which will require even more power, is even more problematic. What will you need

to do, plug your phone in every night to charge it? What if it runs out of juice, will it still fire? If so, why wouldn't criminals just let it discharge before committing a murder with it? Do you really see tens of thousands of criminals plugging in their guns every night so that they're ready to go in the morning?

D: Okay, so, you invent an imaginary technology as a solution to violence. What about the other 350 million guns already out there? How do you think your imaginary technology is going to compete with all of them? Why wouldn't a criminal just get one from the vast sea of existing guns instead of one that uses your new-fangled technology?

E: Okay, how much will this technology add to the cost of a gun? Sounds expensive. You need to realize that keeping and bearing arms is a right, articulated not only in the federal Constitution, but also in a majority of state constitutions. If you price the cost of a gun out of range of poor people, isn't that a violation of their Constitutional rights?

They Say: "You don't need a gun, you'll never need to use it" and/or "How often do people ever use guns to defend themselves?"

You Say:

A: I'm not expecting a fire in my house either, but I have fire extinguishers ready just in case.

B: I'm glad you've made that determination for yourself. But you don't get to make that determination for me. It's my life and my safety, I'll be the one who chooses what steps to take to preserve them.

C: The Center for Disease Control, in a 2013 study commissioned by President Obama, estimated that defensive gun uses number between several hundred thousand and several million per year in the U.S. Almost all national survey

estimates indicate that defensive gun uses by victims are at least as common as offensive uses by criminals. <http://www.nap.edu/read/18319/chapter/1>

D: "You don't choose when you'll need your gun; someone else does. And they will typically only inform you at the last moment." -Tom Givens

E: There are plenty of people in America who use a gun if no other reason than to help feed their families (hunting). You might not realize this, living in something of an urban bubble, but not everyone has the means to buy meat regularly at the supermarket. If you take their guns away, how exactly are they going to eat?

F: Paradoxically, if you keep a firearm for self-defense, assuming you are a responsible citizen and not a naturally born murderer, you actually are less likely to need to use it. This is because as, say, a concealed carrier, you're taught to avoid confrontation at all costs. The use of your firearm is the solution of very last resort in a confrontation. If you shoot someone, you are likely to incur tens of thousands of dollars in legal expenses, and depending on which state you live in, you may yourself be subject to criminal charges. And then there's the fact that you've taken a human life, which will weigh on you for the rest of YOUR life if you have any conscience. All this means is that the concealed carrier is more likely to develop a keen sense of situational awareness than the average person, and will purposely avoid dodgy situations, or choose to de-escalate once they find themselves in one.

Comments:

There are plenty of sources for DGU numbers to be cited on this Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defensive_gun_use#Estimates_of_frequency

They Say: "Quit comparing cars with guns, there is no comparison between the two."

You Say:

A: You're right, there's no comparison at all. Firearms are protected by an article of the Constitution as an inalienable right that "shall not be infringed." The ability to drive a car on a public highway is a privilege and as such can be regulated in all sorts of ways.

B: They're different in some ways, but similar in important ones. They're both potentially lethal objects we allow (almost) every person to own and operate. To that extent, they are very similar. Funny though how anti-gunners tend to get all defensive when we suggest that we reduce the speed limit to 40 miles per hour (analogous to mandating reduced magazine sizes) or talk about banning certain types of riskier vehicles like motorcycles (analogous to banning certain types of guns like semi-automatic rifles) or talk about "common sense" mandatory helmet laws (analogous to "common sense" safety laws like those mandating that gun owners own a safe or somesuch). I guess it's all a matter of whose ox is getting gored. Oh, you need a car, you say? Too bad, I need a gun! And mine's a Constitutionally protected right while yours is just a convenience! You can get by without a car if you need to. Give up your car first, maybe then I'll give up my gun.

C: Maybe we can get together and both agree to ban swimming pools first? Because the rates of swimming pool deaths are greater than for both guns or cars. More people die of accidental drownings in swimming pools per 100,000 pools than accidentally die from 100,000 guns. I'll be happy because I don't own a swimming pool and banning them won't infringe on a fundamental civil liberty, and you can be happy because you'll still get to own a car. When we finally get all the swimming pools banned, then we can move on to arguing about guns and cars.

D: My gun emits much less carbon than your car. Who has more love for the planet now?

Comments:

Source for C:

<http://www.m1-garand-rifle.com/gun-safety/firearms-versus-swimming-pools.php>

“So, having a swimming pool in a household is something like 4.3 to 5.6 times as likely to lead to an accidental death as having a firearm, when we look at the numbers for all age groups. For children less than 15, the difference is more like 19 to 25 times as likely.”

Source for E:

<http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/21/us/las-vegas-strip-pedestrians-hit/index.html>

They Say: (After a mass knifing): “Thank God he didn’t have a gun or the death toll would be much higher!”

You Say:

A: I think the goal isn’t so much to see whether knives or guns wins out, it’s to try to prevent murders from enacting such hideous acts in the first place. It’s not a competition. We need to try to understand what’s driving people to kill other people, no matter if they’re using a gun, a knife, a bomb, or whatever. I guess that’s a much more difficult problem to understand, which is why people want to go the easy route and restrict guns.

B: Yes, and your point is? Thank God he didn’t use some kind of bomb, or toss a Molotov cocktail, the death toll would have been higher than either a gun OR a knife. Can we just focus on the perpetrator and his evil motives and not so much on what he used?

C: The number of people killed in 9/11 was statistically small but the impact was big on many different levels. I don’t think death toll is the only measure of an event.

D: It really depends on the circumstance. Sometimes a knife can be more deadly than a gun: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J_KJ1R2PCMM&feature=youtu.be .

E: Knives are also protected by the 2nd Amendment. How do you feel about that?

F: Maybe so. Still, let's not allow your hatred of guns get in the way of what should be foremost on our mind. A crazy or evil person just tried to kill a bunch of people. That's the main point--how he decided to do it is really secondary. If you want to turn this an anti-gun tirade, I can't stop you, but I think you're not seeing the forest for the trees and missing the crux of the matter.

Comments:

Source for E:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/volokh-conspiracy/wp/2015/11/24/home-p-ossession-of-switchblade-knives-protected-by-the-second-amendment/> Also, just type in "knives protected by the second amendment" into a search engine and you'll find lots of sites dedicated to the subject.

They Say: "We need to restrict guns because it's too easy for people to commit suicide with them."

You Say:

A: Once again, you're confusing the tool with the motive, the symptom with the disease. Let's get one thing straight from the start--suicide is a tragedy. We should do everything reasonable to reduce the number of suicides. That said, let's not make an illogical leap and restrict a fundamental civil liberty in the process! The gun is not the problem--it's the mental frame of the person who's morbidly depressed. You want to blame guns for suicide? Go check out Japan and South Korea's suicide rates--they are astronomically higher than ours. No guns needed. If you'd like to exclude Asians, fine--go look at the U.K. Their [suicide rate](#) is 50% higher than ours.

B: While guns certainly can be used for suicides, so can ropes, knives, razor blades, leaps from high buildings, poisons, car exhaust, [airplanes](#), and so many others. If you provide better options for addressing mental health, you'll not only reduce the number of suicides by gun, you'll also see the benefit of seeing drops in all those other suicide methods at the same time! Seems like the logical thing to do--unless there is a specific reason you want to scapegoat guns above all other methods of suicide.

C: Look at Australia's suicide rate: essentially no difference between that today and that before their infamous gun ban. People who want to kill themselves find a way.

D: Thing is, it takes--and usually takes--only *one* shot from a gun for a person to kill himself. This is the capability of *every gun out there*, even single-shot flintlocks and muzzleloaders. So, let's be clear--when you say "restrict" guns, what you're really saying is in some way or fashion, "generally banning guns from society," since *every single gun* can fulfill the function for a suicide. We can argue whether or not such universal restriction is possible or legal, but let's make clear from the outset the scope of the proposition you are making.

Comments:

Source for C:

<http://www.gunsandcrime.org/auresult.html>

They Say: "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun--that's a myth. In real life, that doesn't happen."

You Say:

A: By definition, a would-be mass shooter who is stopped before he can commit his act does not perform a mass shooting! Asking how many mass shooters have been stopped by armed civilians is like asking how many candles would've burned into house fires if they hadn't been blown out.

That said, here are some occasions when an armed civilian stopped what probably would have turned into a mass shooting:

- Conyers, Ga., May 31, 2015: A permit holder was walking by a store when he heard shots ring out. Two people were killed. The permit holder started firing, and the killer ran out of the store. Rockdale County Sheriff Eric Levett said: "I believe that if Mr. Scott did not return fire at the suspect, then more of those customers would have [been] hit by a gun[shot] So, in my opinion he saved other lives in that store."
- Chicago, April 2015: An Uber driver who had just dropped off a fare "shot and wounded a gunman [Everardo Custodio] who opened fire on a crowd of people." Assistant State's Attorney Barry Quinn praised the driver for "acting in self-defense and in the defense of others."
- Philadelphia, Pa., March 2015: A permit holder was walking by a barber shop when he heard shots fired. He quickly ran into the shop and shot the gunman to death. Police Captain Frank Llewellyn said, "I guess he saved a lot of people in there."
- Darby, Pa., July 2014: Convicted felon Richard Plotts killed a hospital caseworker and shot the psychiatrist that he was scheduled to meet with. Fortunately, the psychiatrist was a concealed-handgun permit holder and was able to critically wound Plotts. Plotts was still carrying 39 bullets and could have shot many other people.
- Chicago, July 2014: Three gang members fired on four people who had just left a party. Fortunately, one of these four was a military serviceman with a concealed-handgun permit. He was able to return fire and wound the main attacker while keeping the others at bay. The UK's Daily Mail reported, "The night might have had a very different outcome had the incident occurred a year earlier [before Illinois's concealed-handgun law was passed]."

- Plymouth, Pa., September 2012: William Allabaugh critically wounded one man inside a restaurant and murdered a second man on the street outside. Luzerne County Assistant District Attorney Jarrett Ferentino said that without the concealed-handgun permit holder who wounded Allabaugh, “we believe that it could have been much worse that night.”
- Spartanburg, S.C., March 2012: Armed with a shotgun, Jesse Gates kicked in a door to his church. Concealed-carry permit holder Aaron Guyton drew his gun and held Gates at gunpoint, enabling other parishioners to disarm Gates. Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright called the churchgoers heroes. Though Gates was stopped before anyone was harmed, he was still charged with one count of kidnapping and three counts of pointing and presenting a firearm.

B: There are countless documented instances of a good guy with a gun stopping a bad guy with a gun before the bad guy could kill a lot of innocent people. These are not difficult to find, a simple Google search will reveal them, or I can give you some examples. However, since you are so eager to ignore these cases and instead insist on repeating your misguided view, I can only assume that there is some deeper motivation residing inside you that makes you insist on disarming your fellow citizens even when facts run contrary to your claim. I suspect you simply don't like the idea of private citizens allowed the responsibility and authority to legally carry weapons. it's a control thing, isn't it?

C: An analogy is that of the Monarch butterfly and the Viceroy moth. Viceroy moths are slow-moving, brightly-colored and tasty, which would ordinarily put them right at the top of every predator's menu. Monarchs are slow-moving, brightly-colored and taste bad; once a predator has gotten hold of one or two of them, they're so confused that they eventually stop going after Viceroy moths as well, because they can't tell the difference between them. Concealed carriers look just like the rest of the population, and human predators are beginning to learn that that's a problem. The wannabe mass-murderer at Clackamas Town Center, for example, was confronted with a credible threat of force by concealed carrier Nick Meli (in a supposedly gun-free zone whose signage he ignored!). Mr. Meli couldn't pull the trigger,

because he didn't have a clear shot, but the predator's game plan didn't include dealing with effective opposition, and he moved straight to his end game of suicide. He thought he was in a room full of Viceroy's, and suddenly he discovered that (at least) one of them was a Monarch. We need more Monarchs in the population!

D: D.C. Chief of Police DC Cathy Lanier disagrees with you. According to her, times have changed:

"What we tell them is the facts of the matter is that most active shooters kill most of the victims in 10 minutes or less, and the best police department in the country's going to be about a five-to-seven minute response . . . I always say if you can get out, getting out's your first option, your best option. **If you're in a position to try and take the gunman down, to take the gunman out, it's the best option for saving lives before police can get there.** And that's-- you know, that's kind of counterintuitive to what cops always tell people, right? We always tell people, "Don't-- you know, don't take action. Call 911. Don't intervene in the robbery"-- you know-- you know-- we've never told people, "Take action." It's a different-- this is a different scenario You can be prepared and you can have a society that is resilient and alert and conscientious and safer without scaring people If you educate people on actions they can take to reduce their risk, then you can save some lives. And I think it's irresponsible for us not to do that That's not an option anymore."

Comments:

Much of A is excerpted directly from:

<http://www.nationalreview.com/article/425802/gun-free-zones-don't-save-lives-right-to-carry-laws-do>

Source for C:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clackamas_Town_Center_shooting

Source for D:

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/responding-to-an-active-shooter-60-minutes-anderson-cooper/>

They Say: “The NRA blocks all research investigating gun violence as a public policy issue!”

You Say:

A: Again, this is a low-information opinion. There is plenty of gun research performed in this country. The NRA is specifically opposed to the Center for Disease Control spending money on gun violence research and they have valid points on why they do. There is no prohibition on the CDC collecting data or doing research – only on advocacy for an anti-gun agenda.

B: The following are examples of why the CDC research ban on guns was deemed justified: In 1989 a top CDC official announced, “We’re going to systematically build a case that owning firearms causes deaths. We’re doing the most we can do, given the political realities.” Dr. O’Carroll later said he had been misquoted and disavowed any pre-existing agenda. But his successor Dr. Mark Rosenberg was quoted in the *Washington Post* as wanting his agency to create a public perception of firearms as “dirty, deadly — and banned.” “Data on [assault weapons’] risks are not needed, because they have no redeeming social value.—Jerome Kassirer, M.D., former editor, *New England Journal of Medicine*, [writing in vol. 326, no. 17, page 1161 \(April 23, 1992\)](#)).

C: It was shown that the CDC was only giving grants to pro gun-control people, making statements like "guns are a virus that need to be eradicated," or "assault weapons have no redeeming value, and therefore no data is needed to justify banning them". The CDC was even caught giving grants to gun-control groups to organize protests! If the FDA made the statement that marijuana was evil, and needed to be eradicated, wouldn't people want them to get a slap on the wrist as

well? Any other government agency (and any private firm) has been free to study “gun-violence” in the last 20 years. All this “the CDC cannot do research” is now a political maneuver to try and make the NRA look bad.

This *Forbes* article does a good job of summing up many of the problems:

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/larrybell/2013/02/12/why-the-centers-for-disease-control-should-not-receive-gun-research-funding/>

D: As the *Washington Post* said:

“When we first looked at this issue, we noted that congressional foes of gun control had made it difficult for the federal government to conduct research on guns. But, as shown by the *Washington Post* survey of Maryland gun buyers, there is nothing stopping private pollsters from producing a more up-to-date survey.”

https://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/fact-checker/post/obamas-continued-use-of-the-claim-that-40-percent-of-gun-sales-lack-background-checks/2013/04/01/002e06ce-9b0f-11e2-a941-a19bce7af755_blog.html

E: The 1997 appropriations bill to fund the CDC contained a stipulation that none of their funds could be used to promote gun control. Since their researchers only wanted to study gun violence in order to advocate for gun control, they were effectively banned from doing anything. In 2012 that same language was added to the appropriations bills for all departments under the Health and Human Services umbrella.

It wasn't until early 2013 when meaningful research started being produced. [Here is the first piece of meaningful research in 20 years:](#)

<http://www.nap.edu/read/18319/chapter/1> . Some key takeaways:

- 1) the idea that "you are statistically more likely to be injured in a home invasion by your own gun" has been rebutted twice, and therefore needs more research
- 2) “mass shootings” account for a fraction of gun-related deaths
- 3) 60% of all gun-related deaths are suicide, with rural areas having a higher gun suicide rate, urban areas having higher gun homicide rate

4) handguns are used in more than 87% of violent crimes involving guns.

F: The fact is, the CDC messed up by being overtly partisan back in the '90s, and so gun rights proponents aren't going to give them a second chance to screw us over if at all possible. And one of the most basic issues here is why an organization that has "disease control" in its name has any business studying what is at heart a civil liberty.

Comments:

General references for above:

<http://drgo.us/?p=266>

<http://drgo.us/?p=285>

<http://drgo.us/?p=314>

<https://reason.com/archives/1997/04/01/public-health-pot-shots>

Source for O'Carroll quote: [P.W. O'Carroll, Acting Section Head of Division of Injury Control, CDC, quoted in Marsha F. Goldsmith, "Epidemiologists Aim at New Target: Health Risk of Handgun Proliferation," *Journal of the American Medical Association* vol. 261 no. 5, February 3, 1989, pp. 675-76.]

Source for Rosenberg quote: William Raspberry, "Sick People With Guns," *Washington Post*, October 19, 1994, quoted by Kates, et. al. in *Tennessee Law Review*.

Some background on this research ban: The so-called Dickey amendment, named for former Rep. Jay Dickey (R-Ark.), had a chilling effect on nearly all federally funded gun research — though it does not technically outlaw it. Specifically, the CDC is only banned from using federal funding "to advocate or promote gun control." But that language was a "shot across the bow" for researchers, says Mark Rosenberg, who led the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control when the ban was enacted. Most CDC researchers pulled back from gun-related studies and funding for such efforts gradually dried up. In its place, that research

has been concentrated at a handful of universities like John Hopkins University and the University of California, Davis, where one researcher spent \$1.1 million of his own money so his budget wouldn't disappear. By 2014, the agency's budget for gun violence research was \$0. It has requested a \$10-million increase in funding for gun violence prevention research since 2014, but Congress has not acquiesced . . . "The CDC speaks only to the alleged possible risks associated with firearms ownership," a NRA sheaf of talking points from the mid-90s reads. "That is usually all they ever concentrate on, never the benefits to society." . . . Rosenberg, who now leads the nonprofit Task Force for Global Health, argues that the CDC's work was politically neutral, but acknowledges that it didn't always take into account the need to preserve Second Amendment rights. "When I was at CDC, we didn't realize the research needs to have two very clear goals: One needs to be to reduce gun violence and the other goal needs to be to protect the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

["http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/262989-fight-to-end-gun-research-ban-fizzles](http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/262989-fight-to-end-gun-research-ban-fizzles)

Source for B:

http://articles.sun-sentinel.com/1994-10-16/news/9410150290_1_gun-control-public-health-approach-dr-mark-rosenberg

They Say: "We have moved beyond a world where guns are needed" and/or "There is no need for such violent objects in today's society" and/or "Guns are made for war, I'm anti-war."

You Say:

A: Regardless of how far you think humans have evolved or how enlightened/non-violent we have become compared to our ancestors from thousands of years ago, human beings operate on two very different, but basic modes:

1. by reason

2. by force.

If someone wants something which belongs to you and they try giving you a list of reasons why they deserve it or why you should give it to them, you have a choice of saying yes or no.

If someone wants something which belongs to you and they want to take it by force, the only way you that you can say "no" is through force. You cannot use reason to deal with force. You cannot use reason to persuade an irrational person. If they are armed and you are not, then you are at a severe disadvantage. However, if you are armed too, you have a chance to stop them.

If an assailant is a 200-pound male trying to rape or kill a 100-pound female, being armed gives the female a way to equalize the disparity in the level of force being used against her. Guns are the great equalizer. One could argue that gun rights is a women's rights and safety issue given the frequency of how often women are raped in the US (the statistic is one woman raped every 2 minutes). I have a sister [mother, niece, etc.]--I would want her to be able to protect themselves against rape and murder by a large male assailant.

Bottom line, is here's what most people don't understand. You can use reason to deal with reason. Force always trumps reason. Reason never trumps force, ever.

B: You have to understand, you are a very rational, sane, normal, civilized, and I daresay empathetic person for you to say something like this. But also you are a bit naive. You live in a privileged part of society where you don't greatly interact people who are NOT like you, the complete antithesis of all those good qualities cited above. There are people who derive pleasure from killing. There are people who are not capable of empathy. There are people out there who enjoy seeing others in agony. There is no way your civilized outlook can survive when it comes up against a worldview of a person like that. You can't do it by reason. You can't persuade a sadist that he's not going to enjoy hurting you, or convince a pathological thief that he shouldn't rob you. You can't get between a junkie and his fix. The only thing you can do is prepare yourself for such an encounter possibly arising. It is perfectly legitimate to consider the role of a firearm in that planning.

C: Do you realize that there are people on this planet who, if they had a chance, would kill you in the most violent and painful way possible, just because of who you are and what you represent to them? I don't know anything about you but I am totally sure that these people exist for you, because that is the way of the world. It doesn't matter who you are--someone hates you because of where you born and who you were born to. These people would torture you slowly and derive pleasure from hearing you scream, just because to them you are the Other. If you don't encounter these types of people daily, someone and something is there protecting you from them. The military is one thing that might be there acting as a buffer between you and them. Another might be local law enforcement. Another might be geography, maybe you live in a civilized part of the country, or maybe you live in a protected, gated community. In any event, before you respond with such a glib and cynical answer and reject all means of self-defense out of hand, know that you are privileged to enjoy such a position in life that you are sheltered from those horrible things that much of the rest of the world has to live with and cannot escape so easily from.

D: If you are a pacifist, I can respect that, but you can't make that choice for me.

E: Guns are still extremely relevant today. The reason is that they are probably one of the best tools for self-defense. No matter which side of the argument you may be on, you have to admit that the gun is an extremely effective tool. It is extremely accurate, can stored inert for years and still be ready to go whenever needed (gunpowder doesn't really expire), it has a very good psychological effect on its target, and the most important part is that it is a distance- and repeat-firing weapon.

In a self-defense scenario, let's say a break-in, you want to put as much distance between yourself and the target as possible for your own safety. Knives are close range weapons, and as the saying goes, nobody wins a knife fight. Pepper sprays/mace are close-range weapons as well and can actually negatively affect the user if not wielded correctly. Tasers are a mostly one-shot weapons, so if you miss, it's useless.

The gun has also settled into a sweet spot as a point-of-focus, lethal force weapon. If you go much higher up the explosives weaponry chart, you start to get to things that cause area-of-effect damage, and lower than the gun you have a chance that you will get caught in a mace spray or be too close to effectively defend yourself without getting hurt. Guns excel at placing the shooter away from the target, being able to focus force at just the intended target, and giving the shooter multiple chances to land a hit.

The real problem is that the gun itself doesn't care if the shooter is defending his life or trying to take an innocent person's. As always, the responsibility is literally in the hands of the gun holder.

They Say: "Real men don't need guns."

You Say:

A: Interesting, since one of the fast growing demographics of gun ownership is women.

<http://www.gopusa.com/news/2014/07/30/shooting-ranges-multiply-in-colorado-allowing-gun-control-efforts/>

B: I would say it's more likely that "real" men don't crap their pants whenever they hear the word "gun."

C: Mike Rowe disagrees with you: "A Man's Man owns at least one firearm. He knows how to use it, clean it, and store it properly. He understands its importance, and sees it for what it is – a tool that can protect him and his family."

<http://www.ijreview.com/2015/10/452624-mike-rowe-hits-it-out-of-the-park-when-called-bigot-for-saying-real-men-own-a-gun/>

D: So, you prefer to be on the business end of a gun?

They Say: "Guns are dangerous!"

You Say:

A: So, this is one of the great things about being an American. We are allowed the freedom to own and work with dangerous things. We are granted the benefit of the doubt that we are capable and responsible enough to use these dangerous things without having--or relying upon--the nanny state telling us exactly what we can and cannot do with them and, by extension, our lives. This is the beauty of the philosophy of personal responsibility. There is a type of dignity and respect that each of us is endowed with at birth because the Founders assumed from the get-go that we are worthy of making good decisions and aren't just a bunch of idiots whose every action needs to be minded. Let's not prove them wrong.

B: We don't ban a behavior because it's harmful when 1 in 1000 engages in it. You shouldn't have to wear diapers because your infant craps his pants.

They Say: "Maybe you're just a tad hysterical. Don't worry--black helicopters aren't coming for your guns."

You Say:

A: Maybe you should lose the condescending tone that is part and parcel why gun rights people find it unbearable to even try to have a conversation with you.

B: Despite what you're suggesting, the sentiment IS out there. "I'd give my left nut to bang down your door and come from your gun." So said a Connecticut cop to a gun owner:

<http://freedomoutpost.com/2014/03/ct-cop-gun-owning-patriot-wait-get-order-kick-door/>

C: It's not so much the black helicopters I'm worried about--it's the slippery slope. The history of gun control has been pretty much all take and no give in small,

incremental steps. For example, most recently there's all this recent legal activity categorizing BB guns as "firearms." These "guns," a couple of decades ago, would be considered simple toys (and still are in some parts of the U.S.). Many of us have very fond memories of walking through the woods with our BB guns as children--to consider them in the same class as semi-auto firearms is a miscarriage of justice and logic, a total cultural shift, and downright bizarre. Combine this example with a thousand other small steps down the slippery slope, and you can see why gun owners are very, very alarmed.

<http://okcfox.com/news/local/court-ruling-makes-minnesota-latest-state-to-consider-bb-gun-a-firearm>

D: It happened during Katrina: New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass told local police, U.S. Army National Guard soldiers, and Deputy U.S. Marshals to confiscate all civilian-held firearms. "No one will be able to be armed," Compass said. "Guns will be taken. Only law enforcement will be allowed to have guns." Seizures were carried out without warrant, and in some cases with excessive force. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Criticism_of_government_response_to_Hurricane_Katrina#Confiscation_of_civilian_firearms

E: You're right, they're not coming for my guns, they're coming for a fight.

F: We're not so much concerned with the black helicopters--that would be at least an *obvious* and *direct* attack on our 2nd Amendment rights. We're much more concerned with insidious, underhanded, *hidden* attacks on those rights. Like, for example, 2013 Operation Chokepoint, run by the Department of Justice under Obama. This operation, disclosed in this [Wall Street Journal](#) story, essentially bypassed due process. The government was pressuring the financial industry to cut off companies' access to banking services without first having shown that the targeted companies were violating the law. As reported by the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), "it's a thinly veiled ideological attack on industries the Obama administration doesn't like, such as gun sellers and coal producers." Threats of lawsuits forced the administration to change the program, effectively ending it.

Comments:

For F: Watch this video to get a quick understanding of the nuanced and covert attacks on the right to bear arms by people in power in the government via Operation Chokepoint:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=733&v=oJ_8bimfZlo

Also see the Wikipedia page, from which much of the language of the above was taken: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Choke_Point

They Say: “Sure places like Chicago and D.C., despite having very strict gun laws, still have crazy rates of gun crime. But that’s because it’s so easy to get guns from other states” and/or “We need to institute a *national* program for gun control if we want to make any dent on inner-city gun crime” and/or “it’s just too easy for those with bad intentions to cross the city line or just cross the county line and make a handgun purchase.”

You Say:

A: No, gangbangers get their guns in Chicago by stealing them or buying them illegally in Chicago. No national gun laws are going to stop them.

B: There is already a law against murder. That doesn’t seem to be stopping the killing.

C: So let me get this straight. Chicago (with its strong gun control) is filled with gun violence because OTHER areas have less gun control . . . yet those areas with less

gun control also have less gun violence? Um, I'm pretty sure that, logically, that means the problem is not with the guns, but people.

D: To buy and own a gun in Illinois, you have to apply for and obtain a Firearm Owner Identification card (FOID). Almost 100% of the violence in Chicago is done by criminals without a FOID card, because you have to pass a state of Illinois police background check to get one.

E: Stringent anti-gun laws aren't working in Chicago so the obvious answer of the anti-gunners is more of the same. Need I cite the definition of insanity?

F: So, the model for the strictest gun control laws in the nation demonstrates a need for MORE gun control laws, when 40 people die on Chicago's streets every weekend?

They Say: "Don't you care about the inner-city youth who are killing themselves disproportionately because of the availability of handguns?" and/or "The reason urban areas are so dangerous despite their strict gun control laws is because guns flow in from rural states!"

You Say:

A: Sure I do. What I object to is you trying to solve the problem simply by taking MY legal guns away. The problems of the inner-city are vast and complex--aren't there so many other things we could work on first (drugs, poverty, gang culture) before we begin to attack an essential civil liberty enshrined in the most fundamental law document of our country?

B: I dunno exactly, if I lived in that hostile environment, I'm not sure I would appreciate someone from outside trying to take away my gun that I use for self-protection!

C: Why should the rural gun owners in relatively low-crime rural areas give a crap about what happens in crime-laden urban areas? It's like places like Chicago and D.C. are blaming other people for its violent criminals. Funny enough, the place where they claim all the guns are coming from is the very place where gun violence is relatively low! And the place with all the violence have the strictest gun laws! Seems like it's not the guns, it's the people. Maybe Chicago and other cities should try some other crime-stopping techniques before attempting to infringe on the rights of the people who don't even live there.

D: The idea that if all states had strict laws like Chicago gun violence would be significantly dented is easily demonstrably false. Just look at hard drugs. The availability of hard drugs is also much higher in south side Chicago than in other neighboring areas, and yet they are illegal in ALL states. Those most likely to use illegal substances for the wrong reasons are not stopped by law--they are just inconvenienced by it. How hard do you think it is to buy heroin in south side Chicago? Exact same would be with guns. The difference with guns is that the strict laws also inconvenience those who have a legal right to them, and therefore there is a trade-off which must be weighed. The criminals would just pick up guns from Mexico along with the drugs.

E: The vast majority of guns used in crimes come from the state they're used in, even if they're illegal there. <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2014>

Comments:

Reference for C:

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/11/12/us/gun-traffickers-smuggling-state-gun-laws.html>

They Say: "If more gun control laws will save even one life, then it's worth it."

You Say:

A: If self-defense gun use saves even one life, then it's worth it.

B: If more gun control saved lives Chicago would be a utopia. So, no, it wouldn't be worth it because that one life is not worth more than the thousands saved every day with guns.

C: Let's try enforcing the 35,000+ gun laws already on the books and see if that works first. Or do you favor complicating a problem with bureaucracy rather than actually fixing it?

D: As soon as they apply this logic to the medical profession, hospitals and the prescription of medicine I'll believe they are serious!

E: Remember that when a family member is robbed, beaten, raped or killed.

F: And if making all bullets purple would save one life I'd be all for it too. The problem is that both would be equally effective.

G: "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms...disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed one." --Cesare Beccaria's , as quoted by Thomas Jefferson.

H: Before we begin trying to restrict a fundamental civil liberal enshrined in the Constitution any more than it's already been infringed, maybe we could focus on eliminating causes of deaths that everyone can agree have no redeeming value?

Say, for instance, focusing on drug deaths? Because the number of people killed by drug overdoses every year far surpasses the number killed by guns:

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/susan-jones/dea-drug-overdoses-kill-more-americans-car-crashes-or-firearms>

I: Gun control is consistently unpopular with great swaths of the American public. Politicians who run on this issue risk political failure, and politicians who pass such legislation while in office risk [getting fired](#). There have been successful efforts to pass gun control legislation over the past few years, but they are few and far between, and they are often toothless, and in any event the most recent gun control blitz a couple of years ago was itself eclipsed by a [concurrent rise](#) in successful gun-rights legislation at the state level. That's right: when gun controllers really get going, their effort is more likely to liberalize guns rather than restrict them.

J: Let's respond to your statement by playing a little game. Suppose that someone wanted to put similar restrictions on your freedom of speech, or your freedom to worship, or your freedom to conceive and raise children. For example, suppose that 'policy experts', on the basis of 'studies' (backed up by lots of 'statistics'), concluded that we could save 100 lives a year by requiring adherents of certain religions to submit to registration and tracking, or by forcing all newspapers to submit to censorship by the federal government, or by requiring potential parents to pass an exam to be administered by the Department of Health and Human Welfare before they could have children. Or maybe it's 1000 lives, or 10,000. Does the number really matter? How large would the number have to be -- or more generally, what 'information' would you need to have -- before you'd be on board with such proposals? I'm going to guess that you wouldn't be on board regardless of the numbers involved, and that your reasons for that would be some version of "Those things are too important to be politicized, and anyway, they're nobody's #%*& business but mine."

Comments:

Source for G:

<http://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/laws-forbid-carrying-armsquotation>

Source for I:

<http://www.trialofthecentury.net/2015/11/06/the-truth-about-gun-culture/> . The language here is just a little edited from a direct quote.

They Say: "I look forward to kicking down your door to confiscate your guns."

You Say:

A: Me too.

B: Molon Labe, my friend.

C: Enter if you please, but you won't leave the way you came in!

D: So you are anti-gun but pro-violence. Nice.

E: "You" won't. You'll hide safely in your home and send some other poor young men to make the single biggest mistake of their lives.

F: You've tipped your hand. For you, it's not about safety, it's about control and personal vengeance.

G: Your threats are terroristic.

H: You'll need a warrant or some body armor.

They Say: "90 percent of Americans support background checks."

You Say:

A: The oft-cited 90% background check figure is for the *idea* of universal background checks/a background check for all gun sales. No poll has shown 90% support for a specific implementation of background checks (two examples being the Coburn proposal and the Manchin-Toomey bill). Thus, saying that pushers of either bill having 90% support for their respective bill is a flat-out lie. This explains why many politicians support the idea of universal background checks themselves, but did not vote for the bill as they did not like its contents/methods of implementation (such as Democrat Heidi Heitcamp).

Comments:

Source for Heitcamp mention:

<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=eb270ada-3226-457e-8297-5ef98cb37a28>

They Say: "We put all sorts of restrictions on our Constitutional rights for the greater good. You can't shout 'fire' in a crowded theater, for example. That's a limit on free speech."

You Say:

A: Your analogy doesn't hold. Actually, you CAN shout "fire" in a crowded theater. You know when? When there's an actual fire! That's when it's actually legal to do so. Any other time would be an illegal use of speech, in other words, you're inciting

mayhem. In the same way, we should punish illegal acts of gun use, not restrict them all beforehand. Because sometimes they can be used in very valid ways!

B: If someone shouts "fire" in a theater in order to create a disturbance, we should punish him after he does so. We don't punish him beforehand because (1) it's impossible to tell what he's going to do beforehand and (2) we don't punish people for *thinking* about doing crimes, only after they actually commit them. In the same way, you can't "punish" gun owners for crimes they might commit beforehand. It's perfectly legal to own a gun and even use it in self-defense. It is only after someone abuses that right and uses the gun in a bad, illegal way that we can then arrest/try/punish him. Put another way, we don't preemptively restrict rights because a few people might abuse them.

C: The first amendment can indeed be limited, but those limitations need to be:

- Categorically different than what was intended to be protected by the first amendment.
- Limited to situations which involve imminent criminal acts, violation of property rights (defamation and disclosure of intellectual property), or national security. So it's a classic "your rights are limited by my rights" scenario, not just you doing what you think is best.
- Not prior restraints. You are not (with the sole exception of copyright violations) ever actually stopped from speaking, merely held accountable for the after-effects of certain types of speech.

D: For speech to be illegal it has to be directed to incite or produce violence/mayhem (which it could) and be also likely to have that effect. If someone tries to create panic but everyone looks around and doesn't see a threat so no one believes him, it will be very difficult to charge that person.

They Say: “Quit using Switzerland as an example of a place with low violence despite high gun ownership. They’re only allowed to own rifles if they’re in the military and their ammo is all locked up.”

You Say:

A: According to the Swiss themselves, this is false. The total number of privately held firearms in Switzerland is estimated at 2,000,000. Of these, only around 260,000 firearms are select-fire Sturmgewehr 90s (the “SIG 550” in the civilian market) held by members of the Swiss armed forces in connection with their current military service obligations. In short, firearms ownership owing to current militia service is a small fraction of total firearms in private hands in Switzerland.

<http://beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2013/01/swiss-facts-vs-american-propaganda-an-open-letter-to-dr-janet-rosenbaum-2529466.html>

B: Private citizens can freely purchase ammo in Switzerland. Here is a catalog that shows just what is available (along with what guns can be purchased):

<http://www.lagardere.ch/images/pages/catalogue.pdf> . This is from one of the biggest gun shops in Switzerland.

Here are others:

<http://www.waffenboerse.ch/>

<http://www.gunshopschweiz.ch/>

<https://www.gunfactory.ch/index.htm>

<http://www.waffen-ingold.ch/>

<http://www.waffen-joray.ch/>

<https://www.waffenmarti.ch/shop/>

<http://www.sommerwaffen.ch/>

<http://munitionsdepot.ch/>

<http://www.waffenhandel-schweiz.ch/shop.html>

<http://www.stampfli-waffen.ch/>

<http://www.waffenbuergin.ch/>

<https://bt-ag.ch/site/eng/startseite> (they manufacture a heap of stuff)

<http://ulrich-waffen.ch/>

<http://www.waffenpauli.ch/>

<http://www.schildwaffen.ch/home>

<http://www.richnerwaffen.ch/>

<http://www.waffenzimmi.ch/>

<http://www.waffenzimmermann.ch/>

This is basic economics--if there's demand for a product, then you have supply.

Other means by which the Swiss obtain personal firearms:

Auctions:

<http://www.kesslerauktionen.ch/>

<http://www.kesslerauktionen.ch/Kataloge/Katalog/katalog39.pdf>

Ranges:

(There's ranges in nearly every couple of towns/villages with their own associated local club (Schuessverein), but there's also some larger commercial ranges.)

<http://selgis.ch/> (Rifle, shotgun, pistol, 100m indoor ranges)

<http://www.brueinigindoor.ch/de/> (Various ranges including a 300m indoor range under a mountain)

Private Sale Ads:

(You can transfer guns from person to person in Switzerland without involving a dealer, but depending on the firearm, it may need a WES permit.)

<http://www.gebraucht Waffen.ch/>

<http://www.petitesannonces.ch/r/p/12> (Firearms of all varieties; listings generally in French)

C: You need to familiarize yourself with this infographic, which quickly shows the gun laws in Switzerland, the kinds of guns that are available, and how easy it is to purchase them: <http://i.imgur.com/DZKEbb7.jpg>

Comments:

Source for A:

This 2013 open letter to Janet Rosenbaum from a Swiss source (finemrespice). The original link is no longer online; here's a copy of the original article:

<http://gunwatch.blogspot.com/2013/01/swiss-facts-vs-american-propaganda-open.html>

and here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1wetKj3-pvAl458K6jm_yqbIT83pdaDmmW1UsJ2ppr44/edit?usp=sharing

[Editor's note: need to get stats from authorities cited in that letter]

They Say: "The 2nd Amendment says 'A well-regulated militia' Okay, what militia do *you* belong to? We don't have militias anymore."

You Say:

A: On the contrary. In Colonial times, the militia consisted of a subset of "the people"--those who were male, able-bodied, and within a certain age range. *Heller* points out that although the militia consists of all able-bodied men, the federally-organized militia may consist of a subset of them. Thus, there was an organized militia and an unorganized militia, and that remains the case today. Today the "unorganized" militia is defined as every able-bodied man of at least 17 and under 45. So even if one accepts that "militia" is the operative word of the Amendment, then it still means all able-bodied males 17 to 45 have a Right to Arms

that cannot be infringed. This is further extended to women by way of the 14th Amendment, which also binds the States to the same protections.

B: Today, the term militia is used to describe a number of groups within the United States. Primarily, these are:

- The organized militia defined by the [Militia Act of 1903](#), which repealed section two hundred thirty-two and sections 1625 - 1660 of title sixteen of the [Revised Statutes](#), consists of State militia forces, notably the [National Guard](#) and the [Naval Militia](#). The National Guard, however, is not to be confused with the [National Guard of the United States](#), which is a federally recognized reserve military force, although the two are linked.
- The reserve militia are part of the unorganized militia defined by the [Militia Act of 1903](#) as consisting of every able-bodied man of at least 17 and under 45 years of age who is not a member of the National Guard or Naval Militia.
- Former members of the armed forces are also considered part of the "unorganized militia" per Sec 313 Title 32 of the US Code.

C: Many states today maintain an organized militia.

D: "I ask, sir, what is the militia? It is the whole people, except for a few public officials." -- George Mason, in Debates in Virginia Convention on Ratification of the Constitution, Elliot, Vol. 3, June 16, 1788.

E: Let's back up. I think you're missing the point. It doesn't say, ". . . the right of the *militia* to keep and bear arms," it says the right of the PEOPLE. Just like all the other rights enumerated in the Bill of Rights, the Second Amendment confers an INDIVIDUAL Right to Keep and Bear arms, not dependent upon membership in any militia. This is what the Supreme Court said when they ruled that it was an individual not a collective right. You need to read the Federalist Papers to see exactly what the Framers of the Bill of Rights were thinking when they created the Bill of Rights.

F: There is a new need for a kind of armed civilian militia in the United States. That militia does not only protect from a tyrannical government--it also protects from enemies abroad. Specifically, it protects us in a way that traditional armies cannot--from (at least some) acts of terrorism. Now, I'm not going to argue that an armed citizenry can prevent every attack of terrorism. It's pretty difficult to anticipate a sudden bomb attack, for instance. However, unlike places like France in which we've seen horrendous acts of terrorism in recent years, where private citizens are not permitted the means to protect themselves, an armed populace means that the United States overall presents hard, not soft, targets to terrorists.

As Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said in 2013: "Societies have to think about how they're going to approach the problem [of terrorism] One is to say we want an armed citizenry; you can see the reason for that Ask yourself: If [the Westgate Mall Massacre in Nairobi] was Denver, Colorado, if that was Texas, would those guys have been able to spend hours, days, shooting people randomly? What I'm saying is it makes police around the world question their views on gun control. It makes citizens question their views on gun control. You have to ask yourself, 'Is an armed citizenry more necessary now than it was in the past with an evolving threat of terrorism?' This is something that has to be discussed."

Comments:

Source for A and B:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia#United_States

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Militia_(United_States))

Source for D:

http://www.constitution.org/mil/cs_milit.htm

Source for F:

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/exclusive-westgate-interpol-chief-ponders-armed-citizenry/story?id=20637341>

They Say: “We should fix the loophole that allows firearm dealers to sell a gun if a response to the background check (yes or no) isn’t received in three business days.”

You Say:

A: The Gekas amendment of the Brady Bill allows a federal firearm dealer to make the decision to sell a gun to a buyer if that person has submitted to a background check but an answer doesn’t come back within three business days. This law is there for a good reason. It prevents *indefinite* on-hold situations, which, while uncommon, do happen, especially when a person has a common name. With modern database computer technology, three days is plenty enough time for a background check to be completed. (After all, the name of the system is the National INSTANT Criminal Background Check System.) If it’s not, it is the responsibility of the government to upgrade the system to make it so. Imagine the abuse that could occur if the government was allowed to delay responding to background checks indefinitely. This would be a great way for a corrupt or tyrannical official to legally deny someone his 2nd Amendment right. Potential gun buyers could be put off virtually forever while the system is “processing.”

B: The Gekas amendment was a compromise between anti-gun and pro-gun groups. If it hadn’t been included, there would have been no Brady Bill at all. Now you want to take it away? No wonder gun rights advocates are worried about the slippery slope! With anti-gunners, nothing is ever good enough, they always want to take away a little more.

C: You can bet somebody high up will tell the peons doing the review to make sure they take their time. And they won't be punished if they take four or five times as long to do this task. Then they'll defund the office that does this sort of thing so only one or two people are checking a million requests. Good luck getting anything approved.

D: As Martin Luther King Jr. said, "A right delayed is a right denied."

E: The background check system is broken but not in the way you think. Did you know that a background check can go into a "limbo" state and you never get an answer as to whether the sale is denied or approved? And you never get an answer as to why you never got an answer. The Gekas amendment is there precisely to prevent this sort of thing from happening.

F: Calling an existing freedom a loophole doesn't make it an evil in need of a remedy.

They Say: "We have to push for gun control in order to do something about this horrible increase in gun violence in recent years."

You Say:

A: Actually, according to the FBI, there has been a long-term **decrease** in violent crime. As of 2013:

- An estimated 1,163,146 violent crimes occurred nationwide, a **decrease** of 4.4 percent from the 2012 estimate.
- When considering 5- and 10-year trends, the 2013 estimated violent crime total was 12.3 percent **below** the 2009 level and 14.5 percent **below** the 2004 level.
- There were an estimated 367.9 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants in 2013, a rate that **declined** 5.1 percent when compared with the 2012 estimated rate.

B: To be precise, the [F.B.I.'s count](#) of violent crimes reported to law enforcement has declined from a rate of 747 violent incidents per 100,000 people in 1993 to 387 incidents per 100,000 people in 2012, which is the most recent year for which it has published complete data. This reflects the fact that over this period, the homicide

rate has fallen by 51 percent; forcible rapes have declined by 35 percent; robberies have decreased by 56 percent; and the rate of aggravated assault has been cut by 45 percent. Property crime rates are also sharply down.

C: In 2004, The National Academy of Sciences issued a 328-page report based on 253 journal articles, 99 books, 43 government publications, a survey of 80 different gun-control laws and some of its own independent study. The panel could find no link between restrictions on gun ownership and lower rates of crime, firearms violence or even accidents with guns. The panel was established during the Clinton administration and all but one of its members were known to favor gun control.

D: Can we start just calling it "crime" or "violence" instead of "gun violence"? Take the 2014 Isla Vista killings in California for instance. Three people were *stabbed* to death, three were shot to death, seven more were wounded from gunshot wounds and seven wounded by blunt trauma sustained when the killer *struck them with his car*, yet the "shooting" part was all anyone could talk about. It just strikes me as completely political--the people who use the term don't care about violence or killing unless they can work in an anti-gun aspect to it.

Comments:

Source for A:

https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2013/crime-in-the-u.s.-2013/violent-crime/violent-crime-topic-page/violentcrimemain_final

Sources for B:

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/09/17/upshot/perceptions-havent-caught-up-to-decline-in-crime.html?_r=0

https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2012/crime-in-the-u.s.-2012/tables/1tabledatadeoverviewpdf/table_1_crime_in_the_united_states_by_volume_and_rate_per_100000_inhabitants_1993-2012.xls

Source for C:

<http://www.wnd.com/2004/12/28253/>

They Say: “We need more laws overseeing the sale of guns. They are entirely too easy to get.”

You Say:

A: More laws are not going to help the problem of gun violence. Criminals and crazy people aren't obeying the ones we have now! And the idea that there aren't enough gun laws is just downright foolish. Not only do we already have a large number of federal laws, you also have a bewildering patchwork of sometimes-contradictory laws on the state and local levels too. The exact number of laws is disputed--some say there are up to 20,000 while others say the number is in the hundreds--but whatever the number, there is a law in place for almost every possible legal scenario you could imagine!

B: To illustrate the variety and great amount of legislation controlling firearms in the U.S., here's a sample of various firearm laws:

- Federal laws pertaining to the Gun Control Act (PDF):
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title18/pdf/USCODE-2011-title18-partI-chap44.pdf>
- Federal laws pertaining to the National Firearms Act (PDF):
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title26/pdf/USCODE-2011-title26-subtitleE-chap53.pdf>

- Federal laws pertaining to the Arms Export Act (PDF):
<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2011-title22/pdf/USCODE-2011-title22-chap39-subchapIII-sec2778.pdf>
- 2013 Pennsylvania state laws pertaining to firearms. Approximately 130 pages of statute. Each state has their own set of regulations, some much more restrictive than Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania is given as an example here of the number of restrictive laws on the state level. (PDF):
<https://rockstargop.files.wordpress.com/2013/03/pa-firearm-law.pdf>

If these aren't enough for you, begin with this Wikipedia page and start clicking on links. You'll soon end up in a bewildering maze of federal, state, and local laws:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_law_in_the_United_States.

C: Before we impose even more gun laws that aren't enforceable or aren't enforced, maybe we can begin to enforce the ones that are already on the books? So many times people who break gun laws are let go with a slap on the wrist, through plea bargaining or other legal hamstringing. Case in point, Dontray Mills, who was charged with 55 counts of illegal gun trafficking (buying guns via straw purchase and selling them to unknown people), but walked free with only one-year probation:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/crime/milwaukee-man-to-be-sentenced-on-gun-fraud-charge-b99560011z1-322283481.html> . And we're supposed to take these laws seriously?!

Comments:

Source for A:

<http://cnsnews.com/news/article/how-many-gun-laws-are-there-study-disputes-2000-number>

They Say: “Why shouldn’t we restrict guns, they restricted fertilizer after the Oklahoma bombing.”

You Say:

A: No, they didn’t, not on the federal level at least. A couple of states imposed some restrictions on the sale of ammonium nitrate. In 2011, the Department of Homeland Security proposed a plan to regulate the sale of ammonium nitrate, but as of this writing, that hasn’t gone anywhere.

B: You can make bombs out of a lot more than just fertilizer.

C: What are you trying to say? Ammonium nitrate is not “arms,” so does not fall under the 2nd Amendment. If there is a fertilizer that can be substituted for ammonium nitrate that is safer, I don’t see why most gun owners would object. Guns have legitimate uses in daily life--bombs, not so much.

Comments:

[Editor’s note: need to research A more.]

Sources for A:

<http://www.dallasnews.com/investigations/20131005-ammonium-nitrate-sold-by-t-on-as-u.s.-regulation-is-stymied.ece>

They Say: “The problem with high-end sniper rifles is that they’re too accurate.”

You Say:

A: What, you want a rifle to be *less accurate*? So a shooter ends up shooting the guy beside him and not the guy he’s aiming at? This is just astounding.

B: You know, a firearm isn't much good if it's not accurate. They don't make guns to NOT shoot what you're aiming at. It just doesn't happen. No one would buy such an inaccurate gun. It doesn't make any sense.

C: When was a "sniper rifle" last used in commission of a crime?

Comments:

Believe it or not, the "too accurate" argument is sometimes used by anti-gunners. It boggles the mind, but some have argued that the problem with some guns, or guns with special scopes, is that they're *too* accurate. The illogic of this claim should be obvious, but it's good to be reminded how little some anti-gunners understand firearms, as evidenced by this statement.

They Say: "You can't have just any gun you want, people would be walking around with machine guns!"

You Say:

A: Despite what you may think, it is perfectly legal to own a machine gun in the U.S. It is classified as an NFA (National Firearms Act) item, which means the background check process is much more extensive than with non-NFA items and you need to purchase a special tax stamp to own one. They are also very expensive, out of the purchasing range of most would-be owners.

To become a registered owner, a complete FBI background investigation is conducted, checking for any criminal history or tendencies toward violence, and an application must be submitted to the ATF including two sets of fingerprints, a recent photo, a sworn affidavit that transfer of the NFA firearm is of "reasonable necessity," and that sale to and possession of the weapon by the applicant "would be consistent with public safety." The application form also requires the signature of a chief law enforcement officer with jurisdiction in the applicant's residence.

Although it is true that the supply has been halted and no more automatic firearms are entering civilian hands, there are still a couple hundred thousand fully auto firearms in circulation today. In 1995 there were over 240,000 machine guns registered with the ATF, about half with civilians and about half with law enforcement departments.

B: For that matter, since 1934, only one legally owned machine gun has ever been used in crime, and that was a murder committed by a law enforcement officer. On September 15th, 1988, a 13-year veteran of the Dayton, OH police department, Patrolman Roger Waller, then 32, used his fully automatic MAC-11 .380 cal. submachine gun to kill a police informant, 52-year-old Lawrence Hileman. Patrolman Waller pleaded guilty in 1990, and he and an accomplice were sentenced to 18 years in prison.

Comments:

Source for A:

(Gary Kleck, Targeting Guns: Firearms and Their Control, Walter de Gruyter, Inc., New York, 1997.)

They Say: "I guess it's okay to own guns for target practice and sports shooting, but the guns should be locked up when not in use at a police station, sportsmen's club, or armory" and/or "You don't need such powerful weapons for sports shooting, why can't you just use air rifles?"

You Say:

A: You have absolutely no idea what your suggestion would require, the magnitude of what would be needed. The very suggestion is inane. It would require the creation of some sort of new, organized firearm rental system, its regulation, its administration. You are proposing an idea that seems sensible in your eyes, but is, in fact, pure fantasy, and you are grossly fooling yourself if you believe that there is any chance that it could be implemented. You are not considering the laws that would need to be put in place, the great number of regulations that would need to be enacted, the need for an entire new system for this to actually work, and the fact that there is no incentive to create such a system. You are not considering the fierce backlash and resistance your proposal would generate if anyone came close to proposing it seriously. In short, this proposal only serves to spotlight your ignorance about guns and the people who regularly incorporate their use into their lives.

B: You are clueless if you think firing an air gun, or a .22, is anyway comparable to firing a larger gun. Your proposal demonstrates that you know nothing about riflery, competitive shooting, or firearms in general. I would respond seriously to your proposal but it would require me to provide you an entire education on guns and gun usage, gun heritage, firearm tradition--things that people who know and use guns begin learning at a very early age. You are like a stranger in a strange land, and you know nothing about what you speak.

C: To enforce this, you'd need to change laws. One argument against is that most gun laws are state-controlled. Relatively speaking, there are very few gun laws that are federally enforced. So, in order to make your suggestions remotely plausible, you'd have to work state-by-state or be content with having some of your ideas implemented in some states and not in others.

If you insist on having your plans put into action on the federal level, the case will go to the Supreme Court because it violates the 2nd Amendment (in my opinion). The majority of states have their own type of 2nd-Amendment language in place in their state constitutions, so you would have to survive the court challenges at each state level too, if you were not able to get what you want federally.

Finally, are you suggesting that people would not be able to privately own firearms, that they'd have to rent them from a sportsmen's club or wherever? --Because, if so, even if you managed to turn this into federal and state law, you would then have to figure out a way to confiscate the guns that gun owners currently possess. That's not going to be easy for a couple of reasons. One, for the most part no one really knows who owns the guns, and two, when you go to confiscate the guns, people are going to shoot at you.

Comments:

In theory it might be possible to give less dismissive responses to this proposal than those suggested above, but it's probably not worth the time trying to educate a person so unknowledgable about guns on why such proposals don't make sense.

Further, even if you are well acquainted with guns, shooting, and the culture that surrounds it, you'll find it difficult *to put into words*, capture the essence, of why your proponent's proposals are nonsense.

How do you explain the differences, to someone who has never enjoyed shooting, between firing a .22 rifle and a shotgun, or a revolver and a semi-auto, or the differences between shooting a .50 Desert Eagle versus say a Derringer? Part of the fun of the shooting as a long-term hobby is trying out a whole bunch of different guns and comparing them in your mind, over weeks, years, decades, building up a total experience of gun use.

Trying different types of ammo, comparing them, seeing what kind of damage one type of round makes in a target compared to another type, firing into ballistics gel, comparing the recoil of one type of rifle versus another, firing an in-line musket versus a flintlock, learning the history of flintlock use during the Revolutionary War, practicing pistol shooting for competitive Olympic shooting versus practicing for self-defense, skeet shooting versus trap, single action versus double . . . and so much more . . . the history of firearms, the knowledge of differences in the technology of how they are made . . . appreciating the engineered object as a

“kinetic sculpture” . . . there is a richness in firearm experience and knowledge that we, as gun owners, enjoy.

But it is a world alien to most anti-gunners, and one which is doubtful that those unfamiliar with firearms can be made to appreciate through words alone. It’s something you learn only by experiencing. It’s very much a cultural thing, an aesthetic, learned by doing and not merely by knowing. And it’s very very difficult to communicate all this to a person who thinks allowing people to own and use only air-powered guns will make any difference in the magnitude of America’s crime and violence, and even less likely they will care to hear it.

As Neil Lydon says eloquently in [this article](#):

“I learned in those days that a boy could love a gun the way he might love a bicycle or a guitar. I had a 1940s single-barrel, bolt-action Webley .410 shotgun that I would have taken to bed with me if it had been allowed. The heady scent of gun oil, the simple beauty of the mechanism, the warm touch of a worn walnut stock – they are all as evocative in their sentimental associations as linseed oil on a willow cricket bat.”

No way an anti-gunner is going to understand that sentiment.

They Say: “We have a terribly strong gun culture in the U.S. that is the direct cause of all this violence.”

You Say:

A: “Gun culture” IS a thing, but in my mind it means something entirely different than what you’re saying. In my experience, it means respect for firearms, learning about them--how they work the different kinds . . . learning about safe practices, learning the history and tradition behind firearms, their role in shaping our country and the role they play in permitting individualisms in the United States, caring for and protecting family heirlooms that are handed down from one generation to the

next ("This was your grandpap's shotgun"); and passing all that along to your sons and daughters as cultural heritage. What you call "gun culture," I'd call "gang culture" or just plain "crime."

Comments:

At this point in time, it appears there is an unconscious battle being fought over the meaning of the term "gun culture" in the pro/anti-gun debate. Anti-gunners are using the term to refer to the violence, crime, and evilness perpetrated by people using guns (or, in their eyes, guns themselves), lumping all gun owners in with the criminals. People who know firearm tradition understand "gun culture" to include the heritage of introducing and educating the young on firearm safety, about firearm use, attending NRA-sponsored Family Days at the local sportsmen's club, and so forth.

So, some firearm owners dislike the term "gun culture" because they feel it makes gun owners sound like a bunch of lawless gangs. If you feel this way, consider using the term "firearm heritage" or "firearm tradition" instead. On the other hand, you may wish to fight to "take back" the term, retaining its original positive meanings. At any rate, recognize that when you are engaged in a verbal fight with an anti-gunner, and the term "gun culture" comes up, make sure you don't let your opponent OWN the term with his malignant meanings. Make sure to insist that "gun culture" means something entirely different to you--a positive thing.

They Say: "The NRA is no grass-roots organization. It gets the bulk [or half] of its money from gun manufacturers!" and/or "The NRA exists to make money for gun manufacturers!"

You Say:

A: This is a prime example of spinning numbers by omitting information.

In 2013, the most recent tax information available, the NRA Foundation had revenues of roughly \$43.1 million. Of that, \$25.4 million came from contributions and grants to the foundation; of that, almost \$19 million came from over 1000 fundraising events. \$6.2 million came from "other" contributions. Presumably, this is where the corporate contributions would come from.

Now wait, you ask, where is the other \$15 million coming from? Gambling! The IRS in Form 990 separates traditional fundraising from bingo and raffles and such. The NRA Foundation nets \$15.4 million on 30 million gross and 14.5 million expenses.

So, you're implying that evil gun corporations pump money into the NRA. But assuming the entire \$6+ million of "other contributions" was corporate funded, it pales in comparison to standard fundraisers and gaming income.

Comments:

Source for A: NRA Foundation Form 990 filing, Tax Year 2013.

http://990s.foundationcenter.org/990_pdf_archive/521/521710886/521710886_201312_990.pdf

They Say: "What we need is a bullet ballistic fingerprint system, where we know exactly which gun fired which bullet."

You Say:

A: This has been tried at various times, like in New York and Maryland. However, after 15 years, millions of dollars, and 300,000 bullet casings--one for each new gun sold in Maryland--they abandoned it because they could never get the technology to work right. Neither helped solve any crimes, ever. Gun owners disliked the program for various reasons, one being that once you fire a round through a new gun, it loses value.

B: That said, there is a successful fingerprint system on the national level run by the ATF. But it doesn't attempt to catalog EVERY gun, just the ones used in crimes, which is why it is successful whereas Maryland and New York's system was not.

C: This is a kind of registry, if every new gun manufactured has to have its fingerprint entered into a database. I'm opposed to registries on fundamental principles. [See elsewhere in this document why registries are bad.]

Comments:

Source for A and B:

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/bs-md-bullet-casings-20151107-story.html>

They Say: "You don't need a gun, you've got non-lethal methods for self-defense! Pepper spray, rape whistle, etc."

You Say:

A: First off, how do you know your less lethal "weapon" really works? You know those little pink keychain pepper spray bottles they sell for women? You probably shouldn't bet your life on one of those. Who knows if it still works when you need it--if the propellant has all leaked out, for instance--and anyway, you have to be real close and personal to be able to get something like that in your attacker's eyes. With the wrong wind, the spray could potentially go into *your* eyes and not the attackers. Honestly, this might be worse than nothing, because one of these things could provide a false sense of protection.

B: It's great to have a range of self-defense options available, from less lethal to lethal. However, each of these different objects requires a different kind of training to use. For instance, generally you have to be much closer to an attacker to successfully use a stun gun (and most non-lethal weapons) than you do for a firearm. A handheld stun gun could be of possible use, but you need to know its limitations. A stun gun isn't going to incapacitate an attacker--it will make him pause for a second, and maybe he'll run away, but maybe it will just make him madder. A taser like the police use, the ones that have wires attached to a dart, seem to be effective, but they are expensive and bulky to wear. Having options to choose from is great, but none of these are substitutes for firearms.

C: Pepper spray does not always incapacitate an attacker. For one, there is typically a delay between when the attacker first gets it into his eyes and when the pain becomes so unbearable he is forced to take his attention off you. Second, that threshold of pain is not always reached, depending on the attacker. Even though he may be in pain, he can still attack you. Third, you've got a limited number of tries before you run out of spray, depending on the size of the cannister. If it doesn't work at that point, all you can do is pray. Pepper spray and other non-lethal means of self-defense have their uses, but they're not a substitute for firearms in all scenarios.

D: Obviously, a rape whistle is no defense against a determined attacker, particularly if no one is willing to come to your aid. We need to keep in mind the "bystander effect," where individuals inexplicably don't come to the aid of any one person who needs it. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bystander_effect

They Say: "Study X and study Y and study Z, along with over 50 others, all show that if we just removed guns we'd have less violence etc. etc. etc."

You Say:

Comment:

This example portrays a situation that often arises in gun control arguments, one which I call "The Battle of the Studies," or "Battle of the Experts." Citing studies is part of a logical argument, and it is good to have sources and authorities to refer to when people ask you to back up your claims. The problem is that there are so many studies out there on gun violence, gun control, crime, so on and so forth, that there are probably tens of thousands of studies that are applicable to the conversation you're having with your anti-gunner at any moment.

Some of these studies will show one thing; other studies will prove the exact opposite. Some studies will be conducted by high profile people and institutions like the CDC; others are conducted by smaller organizations you've never heard of. Some of these studies are conducted by anti-gun groups and are clearly biased. Some are conducted by organizations that are supposedly neutral (but are they in practice?); others are conducted by organizations that either explicitly or tacitly have a pro-or anti-gun mission. There are all sorts of people out there making all sorts of claims supposedly based on rigorous science, and there is no way for the a non-scientist to know how accurate they are or not. Even if you are a scientist, that doesn't help matters much--the experts themselves can't agree.

The number of available studies is overwhelming. As a result, paradoxically, resorting to studies to back up a pro- or anti-gun claim isn't as useful or damaging as you might think. You can always find a counter study to refute the one your opponent is slinging at you, and he can always come back at you with another study of his own. One can always find a weakness in a study that undermines its validity--that one is too old, that one was performed by biased people, that one was conducted in another country so its findings don't apply to the U.S., that one is based on flawed statistics, that one is based on bad experimental design, this one was published but not peer-reviewed, and so forth.

Further, to really understand if any particular study's findings are valid, you need to be an expert in the fields of statistics, surveys, and so forth. You'd need to track down the journal article that reported on the study and see if you can understand from that how they performed it, if their initial assumptions were correct, if there were any flaws in the way they set the study up, if the results were statistically significant in the end, and so forth. Even experts often can't figure this stuff out without looking at the ORIGINAL data, which only the researcher has. You hear about researchers falsifying data all the time! Just because it sounds scientific doesn't mean it's true!

You don't have the time or the expertise to evaluate all these studies. There are people who devote their entire lives to doing exactly that, and even THEY don't agree with one another. All you can do is point to the studies and suggest they're accurate. The flip side of this is that when your opponent flings studies, facts, and figures into your face, you don't have to be on the defensive, because for all anyone knows, those figures he's citing are just nonsense. The trick then is to how to defuse his argument so that he doesn't trick anyone listening with his false expert knowledge. The statements below show how to do that.

Further, whatever the ultimate "truth" of the matter and no matter whether or not studies are actually useful to determine the societal worth of guns, you need to have a number of pro-gun studies available in your "toolbox" that you can pull out to counter your opponent when he starts citing studies. There are a number of studies that historically are referred to repeatedly. These are also discussed below.

[to be added]

They Say: "According to the Violence Policy Center [or other authority or organization], gun violence is at an all-time high etc. etc. "

You Say:

A: Not according to MY expert.

Comment:

Very much related to the "studies" question directly above is the question of which experts, or authoritative organizations, to cite. The fact of the matter is that, just like scientific studies, there are many different organizations that exist to "study" the issue of guns and gun control, of violence in our society, and so forth. It is difficult to know if any particular authority is biased or not, or if they are biased, if they are knowingly biased, or if they are NOT biased but producing wrong results through poor methodology. Most of what could be said on this issue has already been commented on for the "studies" question above, so what we'll do here is list a number of organizations and authorities that are often referenced as authorities in gun arguments and place them in the pro- or anti-gun camp. That way, when you see someone cite an authority that is known for being anti-gun, you can make that point explicitly. For instance, "Your statement doesn't mean anything because the VPC is known for being anti-gun" etc.

The upshot to this comment is that while in a perfect world we would be able to make pro-gun arguments based on polls and studies conducted by experts, it's almost impossible for you as a layperson to figure out which polls are accurate, have been performed with proper experimental design and methodology, etc. Again, as already noted above, even the people who do this full-time for a living disagree about the conclusions of their studies. The best you can do when confronted with an attack based on studies, statistics, and polls is bring out your own authorities to counter the attacks of your opponent.

There is only one type of “poll” that is inherently “true” by definition: an election. Whether or not the decision to elect a particular person to office by vote represents the true wishes of the entire electorate doesn’t matter--the person who gets the most votes wins that position of power (or in the case of the Presidency, the most electoral votes). So, don’t worry about formal or informal polls and public surveys so much--worry about getting out the pro-gun vote.

Organizations, Researchers, and Spokespersons who are typically pro-gun:

- NRA and NRAILA (of course)
- John Lott
- Second Amendment Foundation
- Cato Institute
- Gun Owners of American
- National Association of Gun Rights
- Jews for the Preservation of Gun Rights
- Pink Pistols
- Gary Kleck
- Marc Gertz
- OpenCarry.org
- Eugene Volokh
- David Kopel
- *The National Review*
- More at

http://www.dmoz.org/Society/Issues/Gun_Control/Pro-Gun_Rights/Organizations/National/ , <http://www.gunscholar.org/>

Organizations, Researchers, and Spokespersons who are typically anti-gun:

- Violence Policy Center
- Americans for Responsible Solutions
- ACLU

- Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
- Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- Everytown for Gun Safety (and anything associated with Michael Bloomberg)
- American Academy of Pediatrics
- CeaseFire, Inc. (CeaseFire PA, CeaseFire OH, etc.)
- Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense
- Mayors Against Illegal Guns
- Joyce Foundation
- Talking Points Memo
- The Daily Kos
- Global Strategy (as of 2013 headed by Bill Burton, Obama friend)
- Public Policy Polling
- Media Matters For America
- Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- *The Atlantic*
- *The New York Times*
- *Mother Jones*
- Related and expanded lists can be found here:
<http://www.gunowners.org/fs0302.htm> ,
<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/news/814411/posts> ,
<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20151016/those-poor-anti-gun-researchers>

Organizations, Researchers, and Spokespersons who exhibit both anti- and pro-gun tendencies:

- *The Washington Post*
- Pew Research Center
- Center for Disease Control

They Say: “If all the good guys have a gun, and the bad guys know it, that just means that the bad guys will make sure to kill the good guys before robbing/attacking them, whereas otherwise they would have just let the unarmed people go without hurting them, after the crime.”

You Say:

A: The bad guys would avoid the good guys, as they are only interested in attacking those who cannot stop them.

B: Can you point to incidents where this has happened? Youtube and LiveLeak have plenty of videos that show armed criminals running after someone with a gun confronts them. Typically criminals are afraid of armed confrontation.

C: That's nice of them to just let the unarmed go. I'm going to buy warm fuzzy slippers.

D: What if what the criminal wants is not your personal possessions, but rather to do you harm, through rape or other physical attack? There's NO chance that you'll escape that scenario unharmed if you just remain passive.

E: Even if what you say is true, and a robber is more likely to shoot you before demanding your possessions, the fact that everyone has a gun means that more people are likely to be able to come to your aid, and the guy will be shot up pretty quick. This is likely to serve as a deterrent to would-be robbers/murderers. It certainly will act as a deterrent when they're dead.

F: Doesn't seem to be the case for police. They still choose to carry firearms despite the possibility you raise. I think I'll go with what the police choose.

Comments:

This is kind of an odd, ludicrous claim, and seems very contrary to common sense; but it is taken from a real-world conversation. So, you might as well be prepared to counter it if and when it arises in a discussion.

They Say: "I don't understand your point here. You say that having guns is ok because there are less gun deaths than car deaths or deaths due to medical errors? Well, of course we should improve safety on the road and reduce risks in hospitals, but they are problems totally independent. Without guns, many lives would be saved. We need cars, we need doctors, we don't need guns."

You Say:

A: Dead is dead. My point is that instead of you anti-gunners focusing on deaths due to guns, maybe you could start with other low-hanging fruit like vehicle deaths and medical errors--things that are not a protected, fundamental, essential civil liberty--and then after you tackle those problems, we can then look at guns. Because, despite what you say, maybe you don't "need" a gun, but I do. Scratch that. It's not the "Bill of Needs," it's the "Bill of Rights."

They Say: “The NRA/pro-gunners are against laws that would keep terrorists from owning guns! They even want to allow people on the no-fly list to be able to own guns.”

You Say:

A: It’s all about lack of due process, or in this case, lack of it. The bill permits the Attorney general to deny any firearms or explosives permit without giving any reason if it is deemed a “national security” issue. It also says that the terror watch list will be used to determine who should be allowed to purchase guns. Your name can go on the list and you have no *easy* means of getting it removed. That means the government will determine who can and can't own weapons and explosives.

B: Here's an interesting piece about the terrorist watch list from of all places the *Huffington Post*:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/25/terrorist-watch-list_n_5617599.html

Critics say the system is bloated and imprecise, needlessly sweeping up thousands of harmless people while simultaneously failing to catch legitimate threats, like Boston Marathon bomber Tamerlan Tsarnaev. Meanwhile, the federal government even put an 18-month girl on the list:

<https://www.rt.com/usa/list-tsa-jetblue-riyannas-950/> zk

And Senator Ted Kennedy was on the list, obviously in error, because someone else was using the alias “T. Kennedy.” It took him three weeks to get off the list.

Meanwhile, the ACLU is opposed to the list and has filed suit for due process provisions:

<https://www.aclu.org/cases/latif-et-al-v-holder-et-al-aclu-challenge-government-no-fly-list>

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/speak-freely/until-no-fly-list-fixed-it-shouldnt-be-used-restrict-peoples-freedoms>

The government *can* restrict your travel, for example to the confines of a 6'x9' jail cell, but only with due process. The no-fly list had no due process. Therefore, it was unconstitutional. This was a compelling argument when the ACLU made it in 2010, and so the government put in a redress process for the people on the list. The ACLU argues it is still inadequate, and the lawsuit goes on. Read the link above for details.

C [Same info as above, but more detailed]: Do you want Constitutional rights or don't you? You can't pick and choose. Bills introduced would target a person who is not otherwise prohibited from buying a firearm, and who therefore would otherwise pass a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check, and could still be prohibited from acquiring a firearm if he is on the FBI's watchlist. Once that person is told that he is on the watchlist, he would be subject to a 10-year prison sentence for a gun already possessed, even if he has been placed on the watchlist by mistake, or for a minor or unsubstantiated reason. If he goes to court to challenge his placement on the watchlist would not be informed of the specific suspicions or allegations upon which his watchlisting is based. That person's challenge to his watchlisting would be decided by a judge, not a jury. The judge would not be allowed to consider all of the available evidence.

As the name suggests, the "watchlist" is not limited to people guilty of "terrorism" or who are suspected of other acts serious enough to warrant their arrest. It broadly includes people "known or reasonably suspected to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of, or related to terrorism," including those only "being preliminarily investigated to determine whether they have links to terrorism" and those "for whom the FBI does not have an open terrorism investigation." A person accused of serious wrongdoing has the right to know what he has been accused of, to offer evidence in his defense, and to be judged by a jury. A constitutionally protected right cannot be taken away on the

basis of a secretive or unsubstantiated accusation. A judge should be allowed to consider evidence which may support the innocence of the accused. S. 34 and H.R. 1506 are aimed primarily at law-abiding American gun owners. Ninety-five percent of watchlisted persons are already prohibited from acquiring firearms in the U.S., because they are not U.S. citizens or legal resident aliens. (See below.)NICS already checks the relevant portion of the watchlist, and denies firearms to watchlisted persons who are prohibited from possessing firearms. Tellingly, S.34's and H.R. 1506's sponsors could not name a single gun crime committed by a watchlisted person who purchased a firearm after passing a NICS check. As D.C.'s and Chicago's handgun bans have proven, prohibiting the possession of firearms doesn't stop criminals from illegally acquiring them. There would be an enormous potential for abuse, if the FBI were given arbitrary power over a constitutionally-protected right. This would be true even if the FBI had an unblemished record where civil rights are concerned.

D: A person "suspected of being a terrorist" or "suspected of having terrorist ties" is in a different category than 'known to be a terrorist'. Here in the US, one cannot remove or restrict a Constitutional Right merely on a suspicion. Besides, who has the authority to remove any Right on the basis of 'suspicion'? Rights can only be removed or restricted by a legal action, involving exigent circumstances temporarily or an evidence based adjudication that would allow firearms rights prohibition. This is a tough concept for those who don't understand the difference between Rights and privileges or the difference between Citizen and subject.

It is a feature in the US that non-citizens, who are here legally, are allowed to purchase firearms as well as enjoy other rights enjoyed by citizens. This is not a common feature in countries that view its residents as subjects.

E: So you are afraid to trust the process and allow people to pass background checks, and would prefer a guilty-until-proven-innocent system rather than the innocent-until-proven-guilty system we now have?

F: Honest question: Has anyone on the no-fly list ever committed a terror gun crime? [The answer is probably "no."] Is this a solution in search of a problem?

G: Aside from honest mistakes, which are bad enough, there is the potential for authorities to actively abuse those lists. For example, it was found in 2008 that the Maryland State Police classified 53 non-violent activists' names on the terror list and entered their personal information into state and federal terrorism databases. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/10/07/AR2008100703245.html>

H: Let's assume that "terrorist watch list" refers to the Terrorist Screening Database (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Terrorist_Screening_Database). According to Wikipedia, there are 400,000 names in that database (as of 2008 so a bit dated); only 1/20 people among those names are either permanent residents or US citizens, which are the only people allowed to buy guns in the U.S. That's about 20,000 people. And apparently it didn't include the people that actually shot and killed people in 2015 San Bernardino. If these people are such a threat, why haven't they been arrested? If there is not enough information out there to arrest them, then there's not enough information out there to justify depriving them of something the U.S. Supreme Court has declared to be a fundamental right.

Comments:

There have been several federal legislative efforts (some named above) proposed through the years that would prevent people on the terrorism watch list from owning or purchasing firearms. The legislation was initially proposed in 2007 by the Bush administration, with Representative Pete King formally introducing the bill in Congress two years later.

References:

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/politics/2-000-terror-suspects-bought-guns-legally-report-article-1.2437868>

<http://viewfromthewing.boardingarea.com/2015/12/07/42000/>

They Say: “The idea that we should have no gun control laws because people don’t follow them is stupid. We get it: crazy people and criminals don’t follow laws. But we don’t base the rule of law on how often laws are followed. By this logic, we should get rid of drunk driving laws, because thousands of people got killed by drunk drivers this past year.”

You Say:

A: The point is, however, that there are so many gun laws on the books already, and they're not working, why impose more that probably won't work either, thus making criminals out of what once were otherwise law-abiding citizens? Like, for example, suddenly mandating that all private gun transactions require a visit to the FFL for a background check, or for instance suddenly saying a magazine that held x rounds yesterday was legal is suddenly illegal to own today (witness Los Angeles' recent legislation). It's one thing to enact and have laws, it's another to have and enact worthless, easily surmountable, unenforceable laws. That's the real question here.

B: Compare it to DUI checkpoints. 99% of people going through checkpoints have their 4th amendment rights needlessly violated for a crime which continues to be a problem regardless of preventative action. Nobody is saying that shooters shouldn't be prosecuted for murder, rather that lawful gun owners shouldn't have their rights pigeonholed to make others feel morally superior.

C: If you can't see how gun control laws are analogous to prohibition laws you have no business in the debate. It is illegal to fire a weapon at another person except in self-defense. It is illegal to operate a vehicle while chemically impaired (drunk). It is

not illegal to drink any type of alcohol you choose, it should not be illegal to own any type of firearm you choose. Misuse is where the legality comes in.

They Say: "Owning a gun actually makes you less safe."

You Say:

Comment:

This is one of those claims that QUICKLY devolves into meaningless back-and-forth claims and counter-claims. You can find studies, data, and claims to support either side of the argument. The reason this is so is because the claim is so vague. What does "less safe" mean? Less likely to be murdered? Raped? Accidental self-inflicted gun shots? Suicide? More likely to be shot in a burglary attempt? Home invasion? Where are you presumably less safe--in the home, walking through New York City, walking through the backwoods? Where do you live, in the ghetto or a penthouse in Chicago?

If we wanted to get scientific about it, we would define all these terms and then perform studies measuring just the variables we're interested in. In fact, people have done just that, and there are tons of studies out there that "prove" people are more or less safe. Both pro-gunners and anti-gunners can find plenty of studies to support their argument. (See "the Battle of the Studies" discussion made elsewhere in this document.)

Thus to be prepared to effectively combat this claim, you need to have a few studies tucked under belt that you can pull out to "logically" and "scientifically" prove that gun ownership makes you more safe. Below are a few studies that serve the purpose. But there are other things you can say that are less scientific but still logical that will be hard for your opponent to refute. These are also included below.

Studies you can refer to:

[in progress]

Other claims you can make:
[in progress]

They Say: “We need to close loopholes that allow domestic abusers and stalkers to obtain guns” and/or “we need a registry because when a woman gets a restraining order against her abuser, the cops need to know what guns he has so that they can be confiscated.”

You Say:

A: Whenever you talk about restricting any rights, not just guns, it's not so much a loophole as it is a *Constitutional concern*. Obviously dangerous people should not have guns if they are likely to commit a crime with them. BUT: in the U.S. there is this thing called “due process” which is guaranteed by the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments. No one can or should have their civil liberties taken from them without a judge or jury first deciding that they can indeed be stripped of that civil liberty. If you allow otherwise, in the end you are permitting minor government bureaucrats decide what rights you do or do not have as a citizen. And as anyone who has had to go through the DMV to get a driver's license, you know that such workers do not always have the best interest of that citizen in mind when making a decision. There also needs to be a mechanism in place that gives right to appeal a decision that strips civil liberties. One way that a spouse or partner in a domestic relationship sometimes seeks revenge on his/her partner is to wrongfully accuse them of being dangerous. They are then wrongly stripped of their guns. Even under the current system, it's often difficult for them to get those guns back, sometimes never.

B: Yeah, but a registry would also list all the gun owners who HAVEN'T committed a crime and never will, and you don't punish the majority of a population just because of a few bad guys, especially when we're talking about a Constitutional

right. Anyway, if a person is dangerous enough to lose their Constitutional rights, maybe they ought to be in jail?

C: That's fine, they can confiscate the gun if that is the law of the land (as it is in California), but I am not going to register my gun willingly just because some other lowlife might harm his wife. You are missing an important point. If the abuser is so intent on harming that woman, what is preventing him from taking a baseball bat to her head, or shooting her with a crossbow, or an arrow, or hitting her with an axe, or hitting her with a hammer, or strangling her, or running her down with a car, or poisoning her, or pushing her down a set of stairs as he stalks her somewhere, or a million other scenarios? --Nothing. So all we get is an unwanted registry and the woman is still unsafe. Doesn't sound like much of a solution to me, it sounds more like someone wants to scapegoat guns when the problem is with the person wielding that gun or other weapon. Tell you what--you start registering other possible murder weapons first, like hammers, knives and such, see how that works out. If it does work out, then we can talk about maybe doing the same for the object that is Constitutionally protected. But only until you demonstrate that such a registry works.

They Say: "How come when I go to Walmart I need to show ID to buy Sudafed, but I can buy a box of ammo without needing to show ID? Insane!"

You Say:

A: Actually, from 1968 until the late 1980s you would have been carded for buying .22 or any handgun ammo. After 20 years and millions of dollars on record keeping, not a single crime was ever solved with the enormous volume of records, so the law was repealed.

B: Because your Constitutional rights are vastly more important than your sniffles.

Comments:

[Editor needs a source for A]

They Say: “There have been 355+ mass shootings in 2015 alone!”

You Say:

A: Even *Mother Jones* magazine suggests there have only been four mass shootings in the U.S. [at the time of this writing, the last was the 2015 San Bernardino terrorist shooting. You should check to see if that number has increased before you use this language in an argument]. When you hear someone cite the 355+ number, they are using Reddit’s GunsAreCool Mass Shooting Tracker as their source. That list has been criticized for being poorly managed and filled with errors. It is hosted by <http://reddit.com/r/gunsarecool> which is a gun satire page. Important quote about GunsAreCool admin “Billy Speed” in the *New York Times*:

It’s not clear why the Redditors use this much broader criteria. The founder of the “shooting tracker” project, who currently goes by the handle “Billy Speed,” told me it was his choice: “Three years ago I decided, all by myself, to change the United States’ definition of mass shooting.” It’s also not clear how many of those stories — many of them from local outlets, including scant detail — are accurate.

So, they don’t try to hide the fact that they changed the number to drive their narrative. But even though it is at best controversial and at worse downright wrong, when we see this number in the media we can use it as a “shibboleth.” That is, when someone quotes this number to you, you can instantly tell if they bothered to do true research into government statistics, or if they just pulled a number out of the air using Google. Much like the use of “clip” instead of “magazine” tells you something about your adversary, the use of the GunsAreCool number for mass

shootings can give you a clue as to how well versed (or not) your opponent is in the gun debate.

Comments:

Source for A:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/04/opinion/how-many-mass-shootings-are-there-really.html?smid=re-share>

They Say: "The U.S. leads the world in gun deaths."

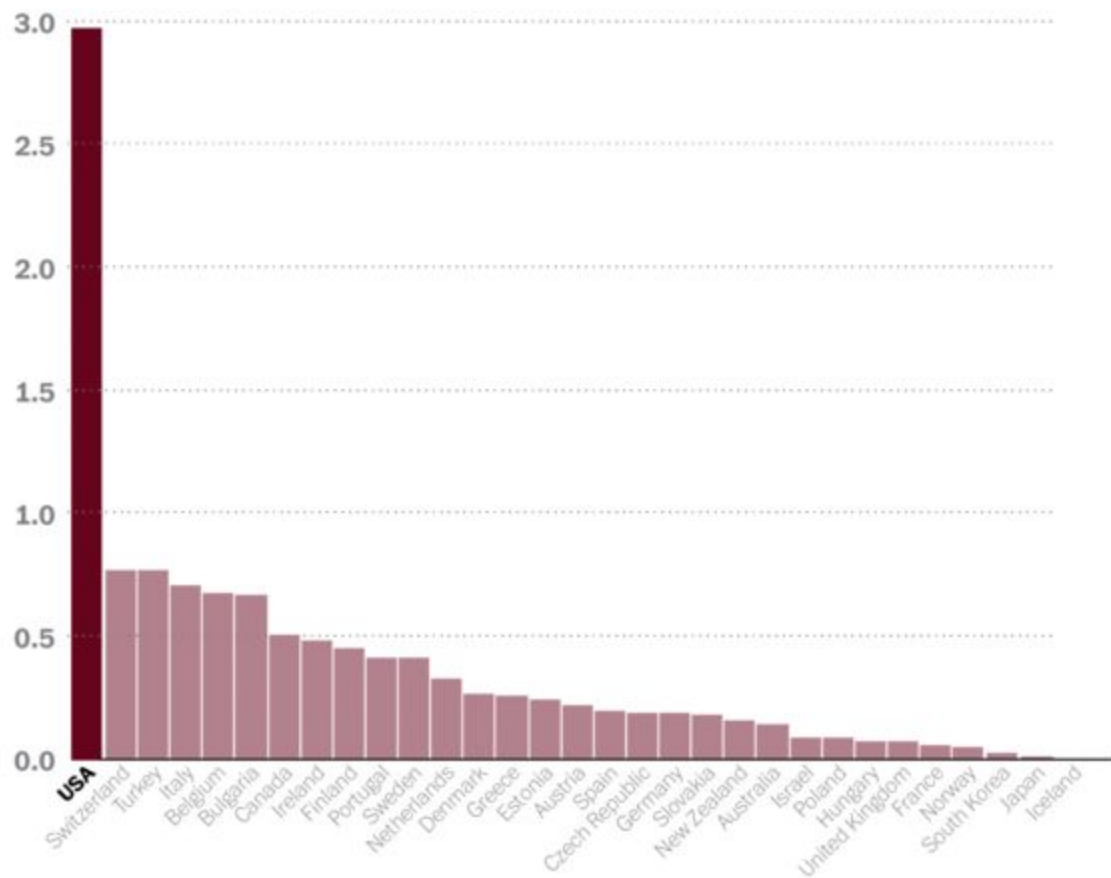
You Say: "Not true. It depends on who and what you compare."

Comments:

Quite frequently you will get someone who states this, and maybe in fact shows a graphic like the following:

The U.S. stands out on gun homicide

Firearm homicides per 100,000 population among wealthy nations

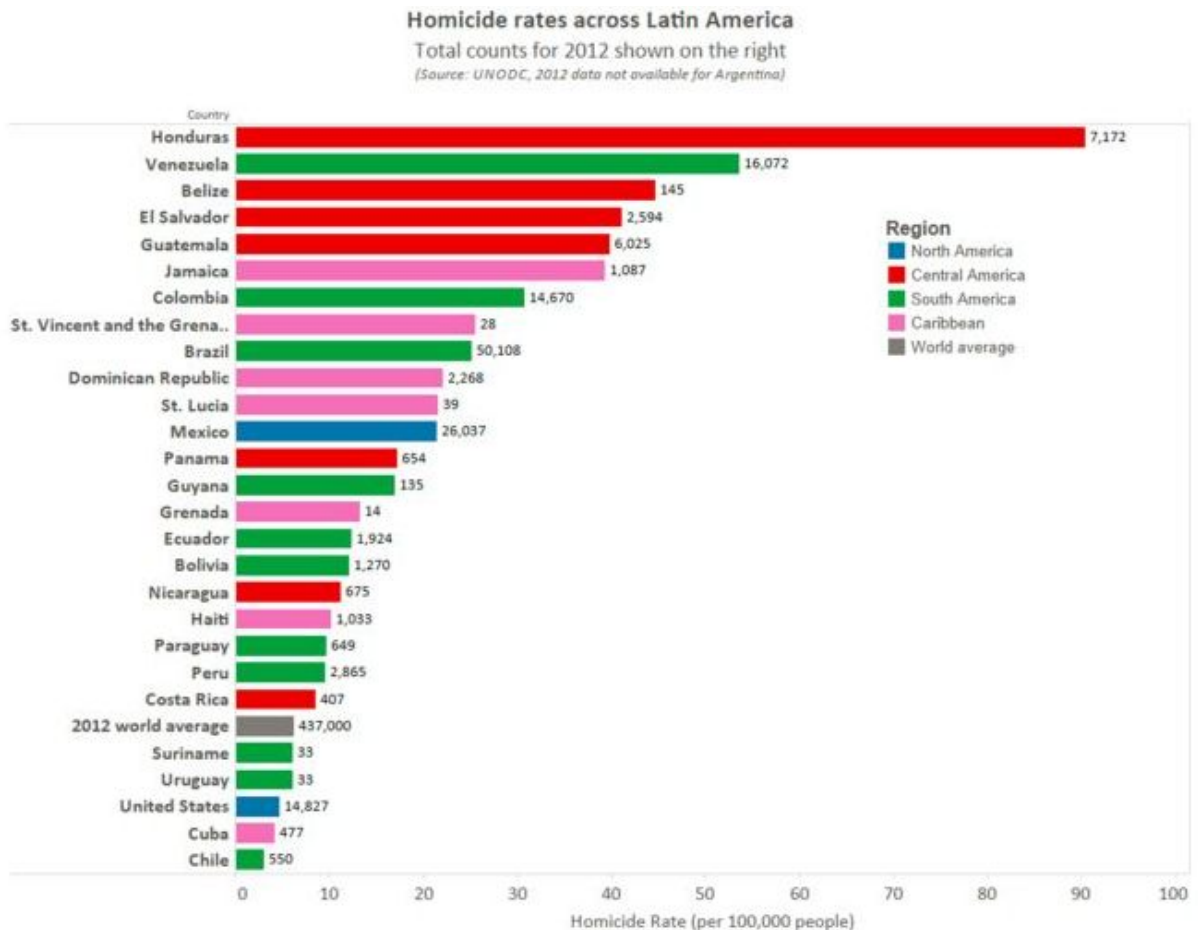


WAPO.ST/WONKBLOG

Source: UNODC data compiled by The Guardian

That looks very bad, doesn't it? Problem is, as mentioned elsewhere in this document, it's not very honest. *Of course* the place with the most guns (the U.S.) is going to have the highest rate of deaths by gun, just as a hypothetical country with the highest numbers of laser blasters is going to have the highest number of deaths from laser blasters compared to other countries with very few or no laser blasters. Put another way, in a hypothetical country that has no swimming pools, there will be no swimming pool deaths. A country with no ropes will have no suicides by hanging, but may have plenty of other suicides by other means.

Since a person who is murdered probably doesn't care *how* they died, just that they are dead, what we really want to compare are *all homicides* by country, by any method. When we do, we see something like this graph:



This graph shows the homicide rates across Latin America, which is the area of the world with the highest homicide rates. It also includes the United States for comparison. As you can see, the U.S. falls very low on this list. In fact, note that the U.S. is below the world average, not just the average for Latin America countries: the U.S. has about 4 deaths per 100,000 people, whereas the world average (in 2012) is about 5 or 6 (exact numbers are difficult to read on this particular graph).

The two graphs might not be comparable anyhow. One graph shows mostly Latin America countries and the other shows "wealthy" nations. Whether it's valid to

compare these two different populations depends on whether you think it's a fair comparison of apples-to-apples or an unfair one of apples-to-oranges. This is one of the first things that you need to be aware of when discussing this topic: people will attempt to compare apples-to-oranges all the time, and there is no agreement what a true apple-to-apple comparison would be. Even the experts can't agree about what the "true" comparison should be--what "yardstick" you should compare the U.S. to. As the old saying goes, "There's lies, there's damned lies, and then there's statistics."

The claim that the U.S. has a "high" gun homicide rate can be further broken down and attacked. For instance, if you accept the premise that violence in the U.S. is not evenly distributed, and that most of the gun violence is concentrated in the largest cities, the rest of the U.S. begins to look downright safe. Watch this Youtube to see how this argument can be made: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gz8po5E_Kfg

Since these types of charts are typically the results of studies run by so-called "experts," arguments based on these types of charts and statistics often devolve into the "Battle of the Studies," [discussed elsewhere in this document](#).

General references:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/kutter-callaway/i-am-renouncing-my-2nd-amendment-rights_b_8710880.html

<http://crimeresearch.org/2014/03/comparing-murder-rates-across-countries/>

<http://www.ticotimes.net/2014/04/14/honduras-central-america-still-lead-the-world-in-murder-rates>

They Say: "You don't need to know the specifics about guns and gun technology to argue for gun control."

You Say:

A: It's important to understand *anything* before forming an opinion. You don't have to know all the intricacies of a topic but knowing the basics goes a LONG way. This doesn't apply to just guns but literally everything. Education would help dispel a lot of misinformation surrounding guns. If people knew the basics about rifles they would know that it doesn't matter how scary a gun looks, what matters is how it functions. You could make a very scary looking bolt action .22 or cartoonish looking fully automatic rifle. If you're not educated in a topic, you probably shouldn't be taking a hardline position on it.

They Say: "If placing more regulations on guns will save even a single death, it's worth it."

You Say:

A: So, we could save a lot of lives if we put a governor on cars so that they couldn't go over 45 miles per hour--probably as many or more than further regulations on guns. Can we install such a governor on your car?

They Say: "President Obama's January 2016 executive orders expanding and clarifying who constitutes a person needing a Federal Firearms License to sell guns will save lots of lives."

You Say:

A: John Risenhoover is a former ATF special agent who retired from the bureau last year after a 26-year career, disagrees. "It's a waste of ATF's limited resources on an unenforceable law that will only serve to inflame the far-right, as opposed to focusing on criminal shooters plaguing our inner-cities," Risenhoover says. "You're looking at people, who, at the most, might have crossed some invisible line that no one can define."

Comments

Sources for A:

<http://www.thetrace.org/2016/01/gun-show-obama-executive-action/>

<http://www.thetrace.org/2016/01/obama-executive-action-background-checks-explained/>

<https://www.atf.gov/file/100871/download> (PDF)

How to Use this Guide

Ever get into an argument with an anti-gunner and found yourself for a loss of words? You know he's wrong, but he's rattling off supposed "facts" so glib and loud, you just can't get a word in edgewise.

This guide can help! It provides a list of comebacks to most anything you can expect an anti-gunner to say.

Let's concentrate on what's important here--the audience. You're most likely never going to convince your anti-gun opponent what you know and understand, that the right to keep and bear arms is a net positive for our society. They're dug in, you're dug in, and neither side is going to budge. What you should aim for instead is

persuading the people watching and listening--people sitting on the fence--that YOU are right.

But in addition to persuading the people who are listening, you can also leave the argument knowing that you didn't give your opponent the satisfaction of leaving you without anything to say.

This is what the Guide tries to accomplish. All the usual arguments against gun rights are laid out in this document, with a host of answers ("rebuttals") also provided, which you can use in response. This document is also a great way to quickly come up to speed with the major themes prevalent in the current national gun debate.

How Does This Work?

When two people argue, when deciding who's right or wrong and who "wins" the argument or not, the people watching or listening (the audience) are convinced through three things: logic, authority, and emotion. (Aristotle was the first to write about this.)

Arguments based on logic are easy to recognize. "Science" and "scientifically proven" are terms you often hear associated with logical arguments. Such arguments typically are supported with numbers, statistics, citations, links to academic studies, and so forth. Just the simple fact of including scientific and logically sounding language ("statistically proven"; ". . . logically conclude . . ."; "irrefutable evidence" etc.) as part of the argument makes it *sound right* to the audience. It makes you sound like you know what you're talking about, an expert. Such arguments are difficult to refute, because the opponent must use facts, statistics, etc. in return, if he is to show he is logical in return.

It is important to remember that just because these arguments include numbers, statistics, facts, and so forth, it doesn't mean that those arguments *are* correct. After all, science once proved that the Sun revolved around the Earth. Just because

the claim sounds scientific doesn't mean it's right. But a scientifically sounding claim will win over an audience that likes to believe they are thinking logically.

Obviously we would prefer to use logic all the time to win against our opponent, with true facts and well-reasoned argument. Logic is "truth," and the truth is on our side. But that is not always possible for informal arguments, the kind you get into around the water cooler at work.

True logical arguing happens only on school debate teams, where the conditions of the debate are strictly controlled. (Recent Presidential election debates, for instance, are the furthest from true logical debate as you can get.) When you're in a formal debate, your opponent is not allowed to interrupt you, he's not allowed to call you names, he's not allowed to quickly change the subject the moment you start to win, he has to demonstrate syllogistically how his major premise linked with his minor premise deductively forces the logical, inevitable conclusion. If he breaks any of the rules, he will be told he's lost the debate. Unfortunately, such formal debate never happens in the real world. And, they don't even teach formal debate so much in schools and universities these days either.

For the kind of verbal fights you're most likely to get into, with your coworkers or some goofball on the internet, it usually happens that you can be *logically* right, but still lose your argument in *the eyes of the audience* because the other guy makes his side *sound* right.

It's not enough to simply have facts on your side (though that is always a primary goal!). Sometimes it doesn't matter as much what you say, but how you say it, how knowledgeable you sound, who you cite, how confident you seem, how charismatic you are, how quick you respond, if you're funny, if you're sarcastic or serious, even if you're better looking than the other guy--so on and so forth.

For example, there is just no way to logically respond to some anti-gunner saying (and we hear it all the time), "You like guns 'cause your manhood is so inadequate." Um, okay. When you hear a personal attack like this, you know right

away that the ensuing discussion will be neither logical nor friendly. It's not going to matter who is factually right. No--your opponent is not attacking you with logic, he's attacking you with insults. In order to "win" *this* verbal joust, you need to have a witty retort handy. A put-down. A criticism. A quick comeback. Logic alone ain't gonna win THAT verbal skirmish.

So, this guide tries to show how respond to the most common anti-gunner attacks *with logic first*, but the authors recognize that most verbal fights aren't won with logic alone. Often you'll hear a combination of logic and emotion, or emotion alone ("I guess you enjoy seeing innocent little kids gunned down?"), or references to authorities ("Ronald Reagan was for gun control, why don't you follow what your hero said?").

We desire and intend to make our arguments based on truthful, logical claims first, but if our opponent decides to abandon logical debate, we're prepared to deal with him on the snark level as well. *You can win a lot of arguments just by being prepared and having quick retorts ready, and knowing when to mix in emotion and authority along with logic.* It makes you seem smart and correct.

Study this guide, read it through a few times until you have absorbed all the basic comebacks and responses. Then you'll be ready to fight at least first-level attacks from your anti-gun opponent.

About the Verbal Attacks Outlined Here

All the "They say" statements above were pulled from actual arguments, mostly from the internet, but also ones that you hear in other media and in real life too. These are the same anti-gun arguments that come up again and again (let's call them "tropes"). You read and hear them all the time.

Now, it is unlikely that you will encounter these word-for-word in any argument you get involved in. The idea is that if you study this document well enough, you will be able to adapt these "things you can say" to any particular version of an anti-gun sentiment that is said by your opponent. Practice makes perfect! Think of the above

as a series of practice problems that a chess master uses to get ready for a match. It's unlikely that he will see any one of those particular chess positions in the upcoming match, but the act of working through a number of hypothetical ones gets him ready to adapt to the ones that *do* arise.

Some of the "You Say" statements are original, but many have been taken from various parts of the internet--comments sections to news outlet articles on guns; Reddit discussion threads; blogs; etc. We've attempted to give credit to the original authors whenever possible, but many were posted anonymously or using pseudonyms. In some cases the original comments have been edited or paraphrased to make them better.

Remember! It's worth going through all this trouble not because you're trying to win over the anti-gunner (you probably won't), but because you want to win *in the eyes of the people watching*, who are waiting to see who "wins" before they take a side. In this way, we *control the popular narrative*, and slowly build majority public support.

Additional Tips:

1. Don't insist on having the last word. Make your points succinctly and strongly, but then move on, just as or before the discussion turns into personal attacks and name-calling. If you attack your opponent personally, or get angry, you run the risk of alienating the neutral people watching and encourage them to sympathize with your opponent.

Further, you can burn out/exhaust yourself trying to get the very last word in. Remember, it is unlikely you will suddenly turn your opponent pro-gun. Engage your opponent, show how he's wrong, show how he's ignorant, demonstrate why he should be ignored or ridiculed, then move on. There are other anti-gunners to engage out there. Consciously deciding not to respond to ongoing attacks ensures that you and not your opponent is in control. The fight for firearm rights is for the long-term; it will continue long after you are long dead, so pace yourself and don't try to fix it all at once. You'll go crazy if

you always try to have the last word. Sometimes it's fun to see if you can continue the argument to the point where you leave your opponent without anything to say, but don't let it turn into a compulsion.

To end a discussion while remaining in control, say something cordial like, "I guess I'll use the last word to say, "Have a nice day." I don't know why you refused to debate the subject at hand, but I do know that it shouldn't interfere with you having a nice day."

2. Sometimes you'll get an opponent, either online or in person, who will just keep talking over every argument you send his way. He'll ignore what you say, change the subject, maybe veer from logical argument to personal attacks, maybe adopt an angry and aggressive tone, and keep talking no matter what you say, maybe not even keeping on track, but leaping from point to point. In line with (1) above, you should know when to stop the argument. But do so in a way that demonstrates to the audience that you are still in control. The best thing to say in this situation is something like this: "I see that you and I are not going to see eye-to-eye on this issue. We'll have to agree to disagree and move on. But I just want to respond one more time to your last point, not because I'll convince you, but for the reasonable people who might be listening to this discussion . . .". Then you sum up your argument any way you wish, make any additional points you want your listeners to hear, maybe take an additional jab at the "unreasonableness" of your opponent, and then move on. We'll never run short of anti-gunners to debate, so no sense wasting time with any one individual!
3. Don't let your opponent change the subject when he starts to lose! Don't let him change the topic by bringing up examples or analogies that aren't relevant! These are instinctive and typical strategies when someone begins to run out of things to say and/or lose an argument. When he starts to change the subject and gets all elusive, or brings up something irrelevant, call him out on it: "Well, that's a different point than what you WERE arguing . . .". "Wait, don't change the subject, let's get back to the point we were arguing .

. . .” “I see you’re changing the subject ‘cause you losing the argument! Let’s stay on track!” “Please, quit trying to derail the conversation.” “You’re committing multiple fallacies with this debate tactic!” “We need to stay focused on what we were talking about!” “No, that’s irrelevant and therefore I’m not discussing it here!” Et cetera and so forth. Attack the weakness for what it is.

Here’s an example of a guy shown to be wrong on a point and then trying to change the topic to make it seem like he hasn’t “lost”--and how to respond.

Anti-gunner: No one is coming after your precious gun. Stop pretending they are. Stop pretending you're a victim when you're not. There are no Democratic presidential candidates campaigning on banning guns.

You: I believe Bernie Sanders is calling for a ban on so-called "assault weapons."

Anti-gunner: Good. I support this and it's just some guns not all guns.

You: Well, that’s a different point than what you were making, which was that no Democrat nominees are calling for gun bans. And you said that “no one is coming for your precious gun.” It just so happens my gun is an AR-15, a so-called “assault weapon.” So it looks like someone IS coming for my gun.

4. If all else fails and you want to leave the anti-gunner in a state of frustration, just end the conversation by saying “You know, as a result of this discussion, I’m going to donate another \$10 to the NRA *in your name.*” And then actually make a donation. You can also add something like “Unlike you anti-gunners, I know when it’s time to stop with this futile arguing and perform an a real meaningful action to help the pro-gun cause. I put my money where my mouth is. That’s why the pro-gun movement is so strong.” This will probably

leave him plenty annoyed, which may be exactly what you want. It doesn't really advance pro-gun rights much, because it serves only to make the two sides even more polarized. Even more importantly, this tactic may seem distasteful to an impartial audience and it runs the risk of having them sympathize with your opponent, which is contrary to the mission statement of this guide and really not what you want at all. But when an argument has become hostile and personal, it sometimes feel good to end the conversation on that note. Know that this tactic is available to you, but also recognize that it's definitely in the scorched-earth category.

5. Never underestimate the power you have in making your audience laugh. Oftentimes people sitting on the bench watching you and your opponent go at it are there for entertainment purposes only. Why not entertain them, if it will make them more likely to come to your side? If you can find a way to make your opponent and his argument comical, they're more likely to be open to joining your side and adopting your beliefs. If you make your opponent out to be comical and worthy of derision, his ability to persuade will be that more diminished. No one takes the court jester seriously. Obviously this tactic is best used when the argument has long since moved past the point of logic and seriousness, and for all practical purposes all hopes to reach a fair consensus with your opponent are dead. This is a guerilla tactic, not a philosophical one. You choose whether or not it's one you want to use.

Let's look at an example where humor is used to bring the audience to your side and perhaps, thus diverted, more sympathetic to your, and not your opponent's, argument. Let's say we're interacting with someone who is basically using the "you like guns because you're compensating for inferior manhood" strategy. He might say something like this (excerpted from a real-life argument):

There's a reason I call you gun nuts "fetishists." It seems to better capture the emotional attachment you have to your guns. Like the dictionary defines: "Fetish: An inanimate object worshipped for its

supposed magical powers. A form of desire in which sexual or emotional gratification is linked to an abnormal degree to a particular object.”

Your response may be a mixture of the truth and the comically absurd:

Yes, but this is no object with fake "magical" powers we're talking about here. Whoever controls the guns really holds true power over other people. If it were a billygoat's ballsack we were arguing to restrict, that people were "worshipping," as you put it, that would be a fetish because you can't fend off attackers with a billygoat's ballsack no matter how much you might believe you can. But firearms and their ownership have very real applications and meanings that go beyond simple useless "magic."

Here if everything works as intended, maybe some onlookers will laugh at the absurd and downright silly phrase "billygoat's ballsack." At the same time, they will wonder what you mean (is it a talismanic charm of some sort? Are you just making it up?), and perhaps will laugh at the mental image of someone trying to ward off an attacker with with a billygoat's ballsack. Meanwhile your opponent feels somewhat vaguely insulted because somehow in a way that's really hard to put into words, the use of the phrase "billygoat's ballsack" seems like you're not taking him seriously. But at the same time, it's all true, you can't deny that it's pretty hard to fend off an attacker with a billygoat's ballsack, and the primary thrust of your argument is VERY true: those who hold the guns hold the power, unlike some phony "magical" inanimate object. See how multilayered and nuanced these things can get?

6. Ask questions. Ask your opponent to clarify his or her view. This is an extremely useful, efficient tactic to deal with an opponent, because most people don't really know the details of the gun debate and so are only repeating what they have heard elsewhere. Forcing them to attempt to

articulate their views points out to them and the audience what they don't know. Let's say that an opponent of yours says something like "We should extend background checks to all firearms including private sales." Now, you could spend the next ten minutes telling him the reasons why his view is wrong, or instead you simply ask him, "Why should we do that?" Of course, he will say something like "Because of course we want bad guys not to have guns." Then you seek to clarify the issue: "Do you know that hardly anyone is prosecuted for lying on the background checks?" and then trot out the numbers, which are indeed small. Or you could say "Did you know that many recent mass shooters SHOULD have had been denied their purchase of firearms, but because of breakdowns in the reporting system his name was never entered in the system?" or "Did you know the the great majority of mass shooters have passed background checks? Why should we impose more systems before fixing the non-working system we have?" Of course you'll have to be very well informed on gun issues to use this technique.

Appendix

This section is optional reading. It expands on the sections above. It's here if you're curious to learn more about the theory of argumentation, especially as it applies to the firearms debate. This supplementary information is placed at the bottom of the document so as not to interfere with the main function of this document, which is a practical guide. Keep reading only if you're curious.

More on Logical Arguments Versus Other Kinds

Logical arguments are probably the most honest type. That is because people are actively and responsibly trying to arrive at the facts at the matter and reach a mutual understanding (Socrates and Plato called this process "dialectic"). But as noted earlier, they are also the rarest kind you will find in real life.

Why? Because in an informal situation, as soon as one side starts losing, they start using ILLOGICAL arguments. Why is that? Because their beliefs are too strong. For many or most people, logic is weaker than prior-existing beliefs. Beliefs are precious to a person because beliefs define who a person is. When you rip away a person's beliefs, in a way you destroy a little bit of that person, so they will do everything they can to keep that from happening. They will alter facts, knowingly or otherwise, to support their beliefs. So when they can no longer argue the facts, they will argue based on emotion or on appeals to authority, or attack the speaker/writer and not the argument (an "ad hominem" attack).

You might think that because attacks aren't logical, you can ignore them. Nope! People are still watching the debate, and they will make up their minds who "won" anyway! They might not even care about the facts of the matter; they might not be educated enough in the facts of the matter to know the difference between a true or false fact. This is how a clever speaker/writer might manipulate an audience. If an audience is not able to follow the logic, they can still be persuaded through use of emotion, appeals to authority, and personal attacks.

Unfortunately, this is the state of most of our national dialogue today, and not just on the topic of guns.

Another reason why logical arguments tend to be avoided in real life is because they take too much work. If your opponent makes a claim and in it cites three different sources to back it up, to be totally thoroughly logical, you have to go through each of those three, read them closely, analyze them carefully, and refute their weaknesses one-by-one. Who's got time for that? Maybe each of your refutations has three sources or claims in turn. So now your opponent has to go through each of those, nine in all, to show how they're wrong. It snowballs very quickly, and so there is great temptation to leap to a different kind of attack.

Logic isn't everything when you're talking about what people believe. There are plenty of times when someone makes a perfectly sound logical argument that is rejected by the audience on the basis of emotion or authority. For instance, a person could make the Nazi-like argument that creating a superior race of humans through selective breeding logically makes sense for the betterment of our species, but people will reject that logic with "That's unethical!" "That's immoral!" The point is that logic is not always the fundamental thing we judge arguments by.

Ad Hominem

There is yet another type of attack that we must be prepared for, the kind in which our opponent attacks not our message, our logic, but us personally. This is known as "ad hominem." This is actually a kind of appeal to authority, in which the opponent suggests that we have none. In one way or another, he calls our character into question. He resorts to name-calling. Either we're lying, we're juvenile, we're demented, so on and so forth. In all cases, he's telling himself and anyone listening that we and our arguments should be ignored not because our logic is bad, but because of who we are.

The good news is that if your opponent resorts to ad hominem, it usually means that he can't think of anything reasonable or convincing to say *logically* in reply to your argument. It means you're winning, at least from the standpoint of logic

(though he can still win in the eyes of the audience if you're not careful). The most obvious defense is to call him out on his tactic: "Oh, I see you're resorting to personal attacks, I guess you've run out of TRUE arguments," or "Ad hominem, huh? I guess this discussion is over since you're no longer willing to argue logically."

Recontextualization

The key to a lot of successful arguing is to use your opponent's words against him. You do this by taking his point and recontextualizing it, changing the context which support his claims to make it prove your point, not his. This is easier explained through example. Let's say that your anti-gun opponent makes the claim that "30,000 people every year are killed by guns! We have a terrible massacre going on in this country and we refuse to address it!" 30,000 deaths seems like a lot, doesn't it? (And, certainly, to any one particular person who lost their life, and their loved ones, it is a tragedy.)

However, to rebut this claim, you take that number and find a way to recontextualize it so as to show how it's not really as large a number as it seems. For instance, you could say

"30,000? That's pretty small, actually. Did you know that the CDC says that alcohol alone causes 88,000 deaths per year?
(<http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/alcohol-use.htm>) And yet it didn't work out so well when we tried Prohibition, did it? Do we want to make the same mistake with guns? Why don't we start with the other low-hanging fruit to prevent deaths before we attack a fundamental Constitutional right?"

--So what you've done here is to make the seemingly large number (30,000) appear small by recontextualizing it, comparing against a backdrop of another cause of death (and also added in a couple of other points to make the argument stronger, reminding the audience of the failure of prior attempts at banning popular items and also reminding them that we are talking about an essential civil liberty). You could recontextualize the number in other ways, too, by saying "Yes, but

11,000 of those gun deaths were intentional suicides, so the number is actually lower, since the suicides would presumably find other ways to kill themselves if a gun wasn't available. There are actually more deaths by auto than guns if you take out the suicides."

Beliefs: Why People Argue in the First Place

People's beliefs in general are extremely resistant to arguments that go against what they already believe. Most people believe what they believe first, then find arguments/reasons that support their beliefs second. This is particularly true when it comes to guns, a subject on which people have very passionate, pre-formed beliefs. It is rare that a person will change strong beliefs based on a logical argument they hear--especially as they get older--but it does happen.

As Leon Festinger, Henry W. Riecken, and Stanley Schachter say in their book *When Prophecy Fails: A Social and Psychological Study of a Modern Group that Predicted the Destruction of the World*:

A man with a conviction is a hard man to change. Tell him you disagree and he turns away. Show him facts or figures and he questions your sources. Appeal to logic and he fails to see your point. We have all experienced the futility of trying to change a strong conviction, especially if the convinced person has some investment in his belief. We are familiar with the variety of ingenious defenses with which people protect their convictions, managing to keep them unscathed through the most devastating attacks.

People's strong beliefs form very early in life, when a child is socialized and becomes part of a culture--this is what makes them so powerful. They are formed as our parents and other authorities tell us what's right and wrong with the world. They are formed as we are rewarded and punished for the things we do, what we're taught, the stories we're told, growing up. By the time a person is in their teens, all their many individual beliefs have already combined to form and shape the way they look at the world--their *worldview*. It's all wrapped up in the culture and sociodemographic group they belong to, where they learned their values.

Depending on many factors, an individual's worldview can change over time--if the person is open-minded--but typically it won't happen through a simple argument you have around the water cooler or on a Facebook post.

Thing is, not everyone has perfectly formed beliefs about *everything*. As noted above, young people are particularly susceptible to having their beliefs formed or changed (this was the motive behind the Nazis' creation of the Hitler Youth) simply because their existing beliefs are new and easily challenged; they are easily swayed to a side or to a cause based on charisma, emotion, authority, and sometimes logic. As for adults, a lot of them don't know really how they feel about guns, and *they're looking for others to help them form those beliefs*. That is why it's so important that we argue not against our opponent *per se*, but appeal to those audiences; and why it's important that it's we pro-gunners who take control of the narrative and perform the persuasion, before the anti-gunners do.

(There is a name for this type of argument: it is called a "triadic" argument, where two people argue not to convince each other but in order to persuade the third-party audience who's watching. An argument between only two people who are trying to persuade one another is called a "dyadic" argument.)