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<http://c-spanclassroomdeliberations.org/issues/how-should-the-issue-of-gun-violence-be-addressed-in-the-united-states/>

Username: students Password: C-SPANCLASSROOM

First, define these terms and phrases before reading the background article or using the videos from C-SPAN Classroom Deliberations. Try searching Google or a dictionary for a definition. Use these words in your deliberations and writing activities after you understand all sides of the issue.

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| --- | --- |
| Term | Definition |
| Federalism |  |
| *District of Columbia v. Heller* |  |
| National Rifle Association (NRA) |  |
| Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (BATFE/ATF) |  |
| Concealed Carry Reciprocity |  |
| Bump Stocks |  |
| “Common Use” test |  |
| Background checks |  |
| National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) |  |
| National Firearms Act (1934) |  |
| Gun Control Act (1968) |  |

**Addressing Gun Violence: History and Background Videos Questions**

Video Clip: [The Second Amendment: Militias and the Right to Bear Arms](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?7380) (2:25)

* *Why were militias important to the founders?*
* *How do militias relate to the Second Amendment?*
* *According to Mr. Waldman, why is there confusion with the interpretation of the Second Amendment?*

Video Clip: [Gun Restrictions in the 20th Century](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?7367) (3:42)

* *What observations can you make regarding the progression of gun laws in America? What trends are you noticing?*
* *What historical events seem to coincide with changes in gun legislation? How do historical events seem to influence public policy?*
* *Much of the most recent views on gun control stem from events that have occurred in many American’s lifetimes. How does one’s personal experiences with historical events shape the values they hold?*

Video Clip: [History of the NRA and Gun Legislation](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?7368) (3:56)

* *What were some of the key events that shaped the NRA’s founding?*
* *When did the NRA begin to shape political policy and legislation regarding gun restriction? For what purposes?*
* *The author suggests that the NRA has shifted on its positions regarding gun legislation. What specific examples does he reference in support of his opinion? How valid is his argument?*

Video Clip: [Politico’s Capitol Hill Bureau Chief Discusses Gun Legislation in Congress](https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?7125) (6:13)

* *What legislation does John Bresnahan think is likely to be introduced in Congress in 2017?*
* *Why does Bresnahan think it is “very unlikely” that there will be any new gun control legislation? Do you agree?*
* *What gun measures were scheduled to be voted on in early October 2017? What is your position on these measures? Why?*
* *What is Bresnahan’s opinion on the direction Congress will go with regards to gun control?*

**Addressing Gun Violence: Background Articles Questions**

**Historical Background:**

[U.S. Gun Laws: A History*-*](http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=91942478) *NPR*

* *How have gun laws changed throughout the history of the United States?*
* *What are the major events that impacted the current gun laws in the US?*
* *How do these events affect how the government can implement gun control?*

[The NRA Wasn't Always Against Gun Restrictions](http://www.npr.org/2017/10/10/556578593/the-nra-wasnt-always-against-gun-restrictions)*- NPR*

* *How did the National Rifle Association begin and what was its purpose?*
* *Explain how the NRA has worked with Congress in the past to develop gun restrictions.*
* *Describe the shift in policy and tactics that occurred after the 1970s?*

**Legislative Background:**

[Every major gun control bill proposed since the Las Vegas massacre is losing ground in Congress](http://www.businessinsider.com/las-vegas-stephen-paddock-shooting-gun-control-bills-fail-congress-2017-10/#october-10-republicans-propose-their-first-gun-control-measure-since-las-vegas-5)*- Business Insider*

* *What is the aim of H.R. 3999, the bill put forth by Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Seth Moulton (D-MA) and referenced in the article?*
* *What evidence indicates that this bill has support? What evidence indicates that this bill has opposition?*
* *What’s your prediction for the outcome of H.R. 3999 Why?*
* *What is the aim of S. 2009, the bill introduced by Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) and referenced in the article?*
* *What’s your prediction for the outcome of S.2009? Why?*

[Finding Common Ground on Gun Control](https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2017/10/27/finding-common-ground-gun-control/I0SsZjmE75N36iJH0DdzDK/story.html)*- Boston Globe*

* *What data supports the author’s assertion that “there is significant common ground on gun control”?*
* *What does the article claim, rather than political affiliation, divides voters’ views on gun control? What is the basis for that assertion?*
* *How persuasive do you find that assertion to be on a scale of 1-4 (one being not at all persuasive and 4 being highly persuasive)? Explain your ranking!*
* *How, according to the article, does the NRA influence on gun control legislation?*
* *How might American’s divide on gun control, in your opinion, be effectively bridged? Why do you think this strategy would be successful?*

[Gun Law Stop at State Lines but Guns Don’t](https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/gun-laws-stop-at-state-lines-but-guns-dont/)*- FiveThirtyEight*

* *How was the ranking of strictness of gun laws calculated by the article? Do you think this is a valid method? Why or why not?*
* *How, according to the article, are gun recoveries in a state with strict gun laws, impacted by the gun laws of a neighboring state?*
* *How does the article characterize the strength of the relationship between gun laws and weapons recoveries? What other contributing factors were cited? Choose one of those alternative factors and make an argument for why it might have a strong impact.*

[Why Geography Stops Gun Control From Taking Root](https://www.nbcnews.com/storyline/las-vegas-shooting/why-geography-stops-gun-control-taking-root-n808771)*- NBC News*

* *Cite at least three demographic statistics about gun ownership from the article. Choose one that is of interest to you and explain why you find it to be interesting.*
* *Choose a second demographic statistic pertaining to gun ownership and explain how that demography might impact the likelihood of national gun legislation being passed.*
* *What, according to the article, does “enthusiasm” mean with regards to gun control legislation and why/how does it influence the likelihood of that legislation passing?*

[Gun Control: Can Congress Outlaw Bump Stocks?](http://www.newsweek.com/gun-control-can-congress-outlaw-bump-stocks-688623%20%5C)*- Newsweek*

* *According to the article, why did the courts believe for many years that “the Second Amendment [posed] virtually no obstacle to substantial regulation of firearms”?*
* *How did the above position change with the Supreme Court’s D.C. v. Heller decision?*
* *What was Justice Scalia’s position in the Heller decision as to what kind of weapons are protected under the Second Amendment? Do you agree with this? Why or why not?*
* *Why does the author argue that, under the Heller test, if Congress wishes to ban bump stocks, it needs to do so quickly?*

Deliberation Question: **How should the issue of gun violence be addressed in the United States?**

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| **Enforce Existing Legislation** | **Introduce New Legislation** | **Increase Enforcement of Background Checks** |
| Source:  Quote:  Summary: | Source:  Quote:  Summary: | Source:  Quote:  Summary: |
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| **Increase Access to Guns** | **Address Mental illness** |
| Source:  Quote:  Summary: | Source:  Quote:  Summary: |
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