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English 100

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Armed Personnel in Schools Throughout the United States

Schools are supposed to be a safe place for children to go to better their knowledge. Recent events have begun to reverse this belief to many people throughout the United States. Places such as banks and airports are safer than many of the schools throughout our country (Santoni). School shootings are becoming more common in our everyday lives. We were only twelve weeks into 2018, and we had already seen seventeen school shootings occur throughout our nation (Ahmed & Walker). Many will argue that the individuals behind the terror come from broken homes, or have serious mental health issues. Others may argue that these situations are easily preventable by placing trained individuals in schools. This brings us to the debate: should authorized personnel be armed and placed in schools throughout the United States?

One of the biggest shootings this year occurred on February 14th, 2018 at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Seventeen students had their lives cut short that day. Classmate, Nikolas Cruz, had been expelled multiple times over disciplinary problems. (Ahmed & Walker) Cruz lost both of his adoptive parents, and lived with a family that voluntarily took him in as their own. That morning he woke up and proclaimed he didn't go to school on Valentine's Day. Cruz was fascinated with guns, and would often refer to himself as a school shooter. Upon his arrival to the school Cruz

entered on the first floor, triggered a fire alarm, and began shooting at victims(Grinberg & Levenson).The family he resided with knew he had possessed guns, but they also knew they were kept in a lockbox. Although they knew that Cruz suffered from mental illness and depression they never imagined that he would commit such a terrible crime.

The Columbine High School massacre was one of the well known school shootings to occur in the United States. Two students, Eric Harris 18 & Dylan Klebold 17, were behind the violent attacks that occurs on April 20th 1999. These two young men created what were known as “Basement tapes” that consisted of them performing target practices, their suicide message and apologies to their parents for their actions(“The Important Of Columbine”). Authorities say Harris and Klebold purposely chose athletes, minorities and Christians as their victims(Columbine Shooting). During the shootings they managed to take 13 lives, and injured 24 other people(Columbine High School Shootings Fast Facts). They committed suicide in the library together. (Columbine High School Shootings Fast Facts)

Sandy Hook Elementary, Newtown Connecticut, occurred on December 14th 2012. The shooter was 20 year old, Adam Peter Lanza. Lanza killed his mother before taking the lives of 26 individuals at the elementary school. He committed suicide after completing the attack(“Remembering Sandy Hook”). Officials at this time still have no motive for his actions, but it was discovered that Lanza did attend Sandy Hook Elementary as a child(“Sandy Hook Shooting”). In November 2013, it was released that Lanza suffered from significant mental health issues that affected his ability to live a normal life and to interact with others(“Sandy Hook Shooting”). Since the incident the

school building has been torn down, and a new one stands in its place in memorial for the victims of the shooting (“Remembering Sandy Hook”).

Many will argue that the people behind the terror are from broken homes. They may be lacking a lot of morals that are implemented in a home life. The shooters tend to have mental disabilities, or depression. Many people throughout the United States are beginning to argue that armed personnel would be beneficial in helping to protect our children in their learning environments. Guns aren’t the bad thing here. It’s a matter of the maniac behind the trigger. Kids are being raised around the thought that all guns are bad, but they only if they are handled improperly. Armed presence could potentially give parents a peace at mind knowing their child is less likely to be faced with this type of situation.

Placing armed personnel throughout schools could potentially help to reduce these types of situations. There is plenty individuals out there, such as retired cops and unemployed military personnel, that would be honored to protect children in their learning environments. Obviously very strict mental evaluations and background checks would occur before placing someone in a school. Without placing protection in schools we could potentially see more incidents like this occurring in the future. Many believe that gun control is that it taking away of guns, but it adds stricter laws surrounding guns so that events like the one in Florida do not happen. Emergency response times are continuing to rise high and higher. Someone who is on property and armed would be able to intervene a shooter faster than police. More armed personnel could deter a shooter to seek out an easier target. Rural communities and cities without police

departments could take 5 -10 minutes to respond.(Santoni) Mark Zilinskas attended ohio gun training and said they can be used to distract or delay a shooter rather than just hiding and waiting to be blown down. Ohio course required teacher to get better firing scores than police officers (Santoni). Officials at argyle and other armed schools deter shooters and provide a peace at mind and that other schools should follow their lead. About 22 % of the states public school districts have allowed staff to carry guns. Improve security and preparedness(Hennessy-Fiske)

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