

of punishment incapacitate potential murderers—capital punishment by killing them and life imprisonment by putting them behind bars.

Third, you can argue that life imprisonment without parole is better than capital punishment because it allows for the correction of errors. Citing evidence about the number of people who have been wrongfully executed, you can make a persuasive argument that a reversible punishment is preferable to a nonreversible one.

Having made these three arguments, you will have made a sufficient case for the proposition “Life in prison without parole is better than capital punishment.” Hopefully, you will have made the case better by achieving “presence” within each of the three arguments. You can then organize the example we have been discussing into a coherent case for presentation. Following is an outline of such a case:

OUTLINE OF A CASE FOR A COMPARATIVE PROPOSITION OF VALUE

I. Introduction

A. Statement of the topic

B. Definition of terms

II. Arguments

A. Life imprisonment is better than capital punishment because it gives greater respect to the sanctity of life.

1. (Description) Life imprisonment preserves a life while capital punishment takes a life.
2. (Relationship) Preserving life, even of criminals, results in greater respect for the sanctity of life than does the taking of a life.
3. (Evaluation) The sanctity of life is an important value.

B. Life imprisonment is better than capital punishment because it provides a means for correcting erroneous convictions.

1. (Description) Life without parole is reversible but capital punishment is not.
2. (Relationship) The reversibility of life without parole allows us to correct mistakes in conviction. Mistakes cannot be corrected when a person is executed.
3. (Evaluation) Reversing erroneous convictions is an important value.

C. Life imprisonment, just like capital punishment, allows society to protect itself from convicted criminals.

1. (Description) Both life without parole and capital punishment incapacitate murderers.
2. (Relationship) Murderers who are incapacitated cannot repeat their crimes.
3. (Evaluation) Capital punishment does no better than life imprisonment without parole in protecting society.

III. Conclusion.