

Reading Questions for November 1

These questions cover a book chapter by Stephen Nathanson titled “Why We Should Put the Death Penalty to Rest”. The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

Last Thursday and today we’ve been talking about the death penalty. Last Thursday we looked at some arguments in favor of the death penalty. Today we’ll look at some arguments against it.

*Questions:*

1. On pages 125-7, in a section titled “The argument from deterrence”, Nathanson discusses the argument from deterrence. What does he say about it and why? Is he right and why?
2. On pages 127-30, in a section titled “The argument from justice and desert”, Nathanson considers the argument from justice and desert. What does he say about it and why? Is he right and why?
3. On pages 130-2, in a section titled “Why the Death Penalty is Inconsistent with the Value of Justice” Nathanson argues that the death penalty is inconsistent with the value of justice. Why does he say so? Is he right and why?
4. On pages 132-5 in a section titled “Why the Death Penalty is Inconsistent with Respect for the Value of Human Life” Nathanson argues that the death penalty is inconsistent with the respect for the value of human life. Why does he say so? Is he right and why?