Argument Review

Please read the following two arguments on Gun Laws. At the bottom of the document will have questions for you to answer and submit to the specific location in MyHills.

**Article Number 1**

**Next, Comprehensive Reform of Gun Laws**

*(From USA Today)*

Our view: Waiting periods and weapon bans are welcome controls, but they’re just the start of what’s needed.

The gun lobby go sucker-punched by the U. S. Senate last weekend. It couldn’t happen to a more deserving bunch.

For seven years, gun advocates have thwarted the supersensible Brady bill, which calls for a national waiting period on handgun purchases. Through a mix of political intimidation, political contributions, and perverse constitutional reasoning, gun lobbyists were able to convince Congress to ignore the nine out of 10 Americans who support that idea.

But suddenly, after two days of filibuster, the Senate abruptly adopted the Brady bill. The House has already acted, so all that remains is to do some slight tinkering in a House-Senate conference, and then it’s off to the White House for President Clinton’s signature.

That’s not the end of the welcome gun control news, thought. As part of the anti-crime bill adopted last week, the Senate agreed to ban the manufacture and sale of 19 types of assault-style semiautomatic weapons. Although these weapons constitute fewer than 1% of all guns in private hands, they figure in nearly 10% of all crime. The bill also bans some types of ammunition and restricts gun sales, to, and ownership by, juveniles.

These ideas are worthy, but they can’t do the whole job. Waiting periods and background checks keep criminals from buying guns from legal dealers. Banning certain types of anti-personnel weapons and ammunition will keep those guns and bullets from growing more common and commonly lethal.

Yet the wash of guns and gun violence demands much, much more. The judicial ability to process firearm-related crimes with certainty and speed is part of the solution. But even more so is the adoption of laws that permit gun licensing, gun registration and firearm training and education.

After years of denying the popular mood, Congress appears ready to honor it. That merits applause. But its new laws are just a start. Without truly comprehensive controls, the nationwide slick of gun carnage is bound to continue its bloody, inexorable creep.
Article Number 2
Gun Laws are No Answer
From Alan M. Gottlieb

Opposing view: Disarming the law-abiding populace won’t stop crime. Restore gun owners’ right.

Every time another gun control law is passed, violent crime goes up, not down, and the gun-ban crowd starts to yelp for more anti-gun laws.

So it’s no surprise that the gun-banners are already snapping at the heels of our Bill of Rights.

They turn a blind eye to the fact that California, with a 15-day waiting period, experienced a 19% increase in violent crime and 20% increase in homicide between 1987 and 1991. And that a 1989 ban on “assault weapons” in that state has also resulted in increased violent crime.

In Illinois, after a 30-day waiting period was installed, that state experienced a 31% increase in violent crime and 36% increase in the homicide rate.

And, a handgun ban in Washington, D. C., has made it the murder capital of the world!

The results are in. Gun control makes the streets safe for violent criminals. It disarms their victims—you and me. The people’s right to protect themselves should be restored, not restricted.

Case in point: Bonnie Elmasri of Wisconsin, who was stalked by her estranged husband despite a court restraining order, was killed along with her two children while she waited for the handgun she purchased under that state’s gun-waiting-period law.

Bonnie and her children are dead because of gun control laws, as are thousands of other victims each year.

Anybody who believes that disarming the law-abiding populace will help reduce crime has rocks in the head.

The next time a violent criminal attacks you, you can roll you your copy of USA TODAY and defend yourself with it. It may be all you’ll have left for self-protection.
DIRECTIONS:
For each article on Gun Laws, do the following:

1. Identify the arguments that were used and summarize the reasons and conclusion of each.
2. Describe the type of argument forms that you identified.
3. Evaluate the truth of the reasons that support the conclusion for each of the arguments that you identified and the validity of the logical form.