Easy Access English

The Law of the Gun



***Activity One* – *Read* the text and fill the ten *gaps* (with your partner).**

In America people hear stories of gun violence every day. Domestic disputes turning [.....]. Street crimes taking the lives of innocent people. Mass shootings [.....] in our public spaces. Suicides and fatal accidents [.....] families across the country. The [.....] toll of America's gun violence epidemic leaves 100,000 people injured or killed every year in communities nationwide. But while the number of people affected by this crisis is [.....] – 86 people die by guns every single day – it's almost equally shocking to find that legislators [.....] aren't doing everything in their power to prevent the killings.

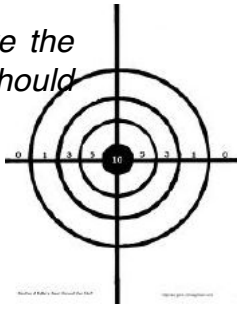
Plenty of widely supported policies can reduce gun violence, but, in many states, they aren't being adopted. In fact, a number of states have chosen to pass [.....] that actually make it *more* difficult for law enforcement, doctors, and local officials to work to reduce gun deaths and injuries.

State gun laws are critical because America's federal gun laws are extremely weak and leave enormous [.....]. For example, 40% of all gun sales can be completed without [.....] checks because federal law doesn't require checks for firearm sales between private parties. Unless states step in and adopt their own smart laws, federal gaps like these allow guns to easily [.....] into the hands of criminals.

Deadly	gaps	flow
unrelenting	background	devastating
staggering	measures	
wreaking havoc	nationwide	

Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

***Activity Two* - *Brief Discussion Point* -** *Do you know why Americans have the right to carry guns? What do you think about it? Do you think people in France should have the same rights?*



Activity Three – ***Reading*** – (Concentrate on your intonation and pronunciation).

The Second amendment. - ***The "right to bear arms".***

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."
The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Having been oppressed by a professional army, the founding fathers of the United States had no use for establishing one of their own. Instead, they decided that an armed citizenry makes the best army of all. General George Washington created regulation for the aforementioned "well-regulated militia," which would consist of every able-bodied man in the country.
Controversy: Interpretations of the Second Amendment:

There are three predominant interpretations of the Second Amendment:
The civilian militia interpretation, which holds that the Second Amendment is no longer valid, having been intended to protect a militia system that is no longer in place. The individual rights interpretation, which holds that the individual right to bear arms is a basic right on the same order as the right to free speech.
The median interpretation, which holds that the Second Amendment does protect an individual right to bear arms but is restricted by the militia language in some way.

There are a high number of shootings, killings and mass shootings in the USA every year – here is a grim reminder:
http://www.denverpost.com/theatershooting/ci_21123378/interactive-timeline-history-u-s-mass-shootings

Activity Four – ***Comprehension*** – Watch the **Video** and answer the **questions**. It is very **difficult to understand**, so listen ONLY for answers to the questions.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUGnV-5zyvk
The Founding Fathers 'Right To Bear' Arms Meant a 'Musket' Not an AR-15!.



1. Why did Tom Mauser become a gun control militant?
2. What does he believe should be done about the problem?
3. Are the young people of America feel about gun control?
4. What is the public opinion about gun control?
5. What happens to politicians who publicly support gun control?
6. What does the debate often come down to?
7. What kind of gun was used in the tragedy they are discussing?
8. What kind of killing could be done with that weapon according to the journalist? '
9. What does he say about Benjamin Franklin's intentions?
10. What does Tom Mauser think reasonable people will say about gun control?
11. What does the graph show about public opinions?
12. What does the second journalist say about assault weapons?

Activity Five – **Opinions**. **In two teams debate 'The Right to Bear Arms'.**

The teacher will chair the debate giving each side equal time to speak. You will prepare your argument as a team before the debate begins. Each person who speaks has to use one of the following expressions to introduce their point (otherwise they will not be allowed to speak) and each argument must be structured with a beginning, middle and end and using linking words. Sentences must be short, (so use the linking words at the start of sentences). And the end of the debate there will be a vote to see which was the most convincing team!

Expressions to introduce opinion

- I'd like to suggest that…
- I'd like to point out that…
- I'm convinced that
- Generally speaking…
- Umtimately
- Essentially
- Basically
- Clearly
- It seems clear that
- It seems obvious that
- Statistics prove that
- Research has show that
- It is thought that...
- Some people say that...
- It is considered...
- It is generally accepted that...

Linking Words.

- However
- Therefore
- Furthermore
- As a result
- Besides
- Moreover
- Despite this fact
- Nevertheless
- In addition
- Consequently
- Let alone
- On the one hand
- On the other hand
- On top of that
- Over and above
- This means that



Activity Six – *Role Plays – Act out the dialogues.*

1. You are an American and you believe that everyone should carry a gun for their own safety. You explain your point of view to a French person who does not agree. You start to have a big argument as a result.

2. You are an American parent and you answer your child's questions when he asks if he is safe at school.

3. You are buying a gun in Texas. You go into a gun store and the sales person helps you to choose according to your needs.

4. You are in a gun club taking a shooting lesson with your gun enthusiast teacher. It's not as easy as you thought it would be.

5. You are Benjamin Franklin and you are deciding on the sixth amendment and explaining it to George Washington and James Madison in a meeting about the bill of rights.

And Finally –

The Right to **Bear** Arms… **http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RablPalREkk**