

## WELCOME

Welcome to our High School Curriculum on the Death Penalty student site. The death penalty in the United States has always been a controversial issue, and recent developments concerning the death penalty have once again returned the issue to the public sphere. This Web site and its accompanying materials are designed to assist both teachers and students in an exploration of capital punishment, presenting arguments for and against its use, as well as issues of ethics and justice that surround it.

**Students** will find an innovative and interactive Web site that is ideally suited for classroom use involving group work, class discussions, and independent reflection. However, students doing independent projects may also use the site.

### **Teachers:**

The authors of this curriculum site have made every effort to ensure that the educational approach is balanced, respecting the views of all sides in this often-spirited debate. The site was principally designed by the Michigan State Communications Technology Laboratory, which has prepared a number of award-winning educational sites on other topics. Teacher educators, in conjunction with practicing teachers in the fields of social studies, history and religion, worked together to develop the curriculum. Factual content was provided by the Death Penalty Information Center (DPIC), a non-profit organization that conducts research on issues related to capital punishment. The Center utilized a broad spectrum of case decisions, news accounts, books and scholarly journals in assembling the content. Funding for the project was provided by grants from the Soros Foundation and the Columbia Foundation.

### **Plugins Needed**

Two sections of the Web site require the Macromedia Flash plugin: Stages in a Capital Case and Interactive U.S. Maps. The Flash plugin is built in to many browsers and can be downloaded for free from <http://www.macromedia.com/software/downloads/>

In addition to the Web site, we have created files optimized for you to print and hand out in the classroom. Click on the PRINT button to open a "PDF" file to print. There is one PDF file for each section. Opening PDF files requires the Adobe Acrobat Reader, downloadable for free from <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

### **Awards and Recognition**

The Death Penalty Information high school curriculum site has received numerous awards and recognitions, for educational value, high quality content, and high quality site design.

Web Design Awards include Surfer's Choice, Cool Site of the Day, and Web Author's Choice:

The site was reviewed and selected as a member of the GEM Gateway Consortium of Internet-based educational materials, received a 5 star rating from Pacific Bell's Blue Web'n Library of Educational Resources, as well as a Lightspan StudyWeb award, and Awesome Library Editor's Choice recognition as being among the top 5% of educational sites on the web, and a Busy Educator Award.

The site was selected by the American Bar Association Division for Public Education to use as the core curriculum for their 2001 annual National Online Summit for 50 participating high schools.

**You can reference this site for use in a research paper as follows:**

\* Death Penalty Curricula for High School. 1 Nov 2001. Michigan State University Comm Tech Lab and Death Penalty Information Center. Date accessed <<http://deathpenaltycurriculum.org/student/index.html>>.

Date accessed is the date on which you viewed the site.

**Contacting Us**

The creators of this site can be contacted via email at [curriculum@deathpenaltyinfo.org](mailto:curriculum@deathpenaltyinfo.org).