

Today, I am going to present to you, my persuasive oral presentation on gun violence.

In my oral presentation, I am going to explain what is gun violence. I will tell you the main reason why there are so many gun deaths in America. I will include why we must prevent gun violence. In the end, I will show some of the solutions we have to prevent gun violence.

Imagine you are on your school holidays having a family trip to the beach, and you feel thirsty and you go down to the coffee shop.

Suddenly bang! You hear this loud unusual sound, followed by people screaming, shouting, crying. With confusion and fear, you pick up your little brother while you are trying to figure out what is happening. A man shows up holding a shotgun in his hand. Bang! Without hesitation, he fires, and one by one people fall on the ground. Your dad is begging him to leave you and your brother alone. But the response he gets is a bullet through his head. As the cold-blooded killer walks towards you, you are terrified.

This is an imaginary scene from the biggest massacre in Australia's history. On 28th of April 1996, a mass shooting killed 35 people, wounded 23 in Port Arthur, Tasmania. The nation was in shock. How could this happen in Australia? After a lot of political debate, the Prime Minister John Howard rallied all the states and territories to propose stricter gun laws. For the first time in Australia's history, the government announced a gun buyback scheme. There was a lot of criticism from many farmers but the National Party leader Tim Fischer pushed ahead and supported Howard's scheme. In just two weeks after the massacre Parliament passed the buyback scheme and announced stricter gun laws.

As we can see on the graph here, the total number of firearm deaths in Australia have dropped dramatically since 1996. Australia's strict gun policy is often used as an example of success on gun control in other countries. So if our policy has been so effective, why haven't others followed? Think about it. If you are the leader of a country would you like to see your citizens suffering from gun violence? The answer is obvious, but there is always an obstacle we have to confront and that is gun culture. For example, America is infamous for its right to bear arms.

We can see on the left-hand side of this graph, there are an estimated 900 million civilian-held firearms around the globe. Most of those guns are in the United States. When we adjust for population size, which is the graph on the right-hand side, it also has the most guns per capita. With this many, it is no wonder that the US has a lot more firearm violence compared to other countries.

The reason why they have so many guns in the US is that they have this cultural and legal concept – the second amendment – which is ok for self-defence. But perhaps this law makes it too easy for people to

buy guns and use them for the wrong reasons. Gang culture and more recently political extremists can easily buy a gun from a supermarket – just like Costco which we have in Canberra. I think Australia's strict controls helps stop these kinds of people from doing us harm with guns. The only people who seem to get guns here are criminals anyway. Not, for example, a college teenager like they can in Texas.