**Pros and Cons of Corporal Punishment in Schools**

Corporal punishment has been a topic of debate for many years. Strong arguments for and against corporal punishment are abundant, and many people find that even in the most open minded circumstances, they still cannot agree. Many see it as a good tool for enforcing rules and discipline, while others see I as abuse and detrimental behavior. Before you decide, let us explore some of the pros and cons. In doing so, you will have more knowledge before making your decision and taking a side.

Corporal punishment is often thought of as a deterrent to bad behavior. No one likes the thought of punishment, and knowing that it can be enforced can be a strong influence on the actions of children. The use of corporal punishment increases the short term effects of compliance of a student or child because the reprimand is fresh in their mind. One reason that so many are for corporal punishment is that it has a very low to no cost rate, so it is affordable to all teachers, school heads and parents alike.

Whereas punishments like writing lines and detention take up time, corporal punishment offers the same results for a fraction of the time. This also promotes productivity in a student or child. Right and wrong are two things we learn early on, but for some it needs to be a constant reminder. Corporal punishment certainly lets the person know where they have crossed the line.

For every good point, there are also bad points. One of the biggest concerns against corporal punishment is that punishment can severely lower the self-esteem of a child, or even the person whose responsibility it is to enforce the punishment. It may also cause long term mental effects. Many people would argue that there are other ways of punishment that are just as effective, such as line writing or detention. While it is more time consuming, it can still have the same mental effect if a child feels that they are missing out on something more fun, such as playing with friends. It has been proven that people who receive punishment, especially physical, have more anger problems as adults or have trouble controlling outbursts, anger and rage.

The vast majority of people who are against corporal punishment see it as straight out violence against another person. They also fear that it portrays violence to children as being, and can instill children to be mean or hurtful to one another. The biggest reason that people are against corporal punishment is that it is violence against a child, and any abuse of any kind is wrong.

While there are good and bad points to corporal punishment, each person must decide for themselves which side they stand on. Everyone has strong opinions and being open minded to each person’s thoughts can make for a strong debate, and allow for you to decide on your side easier. No matter what though, the child should always be the most important part of the discussion.

**How does corporal punishment protect rights? How does it hurt rights?**

With your table group, come up with three reasons that corporal punishment should be allowed in school and three good reasons it should not be allowed.

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| **Corporal punishment protects rights.**  Reasons why spanking SHOULD be allowed in school… | **Corporal punishment hurts rights.**  Reasons why spanking should NOT be allowed in school… |
|  | 1. |
|  | 2. |
|  | 3. |

1. Based off of what we learned in class, what is the purpose of government?

1. Which side of the debate do you think is stronger? Why?
2. In your opinion, does spanking in school hurt or help protect natural rights? Explain