

Why deny felons the right to vote? The topic of disenfranchising felons has been a highly debated issue. In this ongoing debate, it is apparent that the proponents' argument is much stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove that restricting voting rights to non-violent felons is unjustifiable; it is unequal; and it takes away their freedom in society.

Firstly, the proponents' argument is stronger than the opponents' argument because they prove that restricting voting rights to non violent felons is unjustifiable. For instance, the proponents state that "No citizen should be denied voting rights after completing their prison sentence. It creates an unjust, permanent restriction." (1) This explains that denying voting rights to felons after completing their prison term unjustly hinders them from getting their rights permanently restored.

Secondly, the proponents have a stronger argument in favor of reinstating felons than their opponents because they prove that denying voting rights to felons is unequal. For example, the proponents claim that "While racial minorities make up approximately 30% of the U.S. population, they comprise 60% of the prison population. (2) This suggests that denying felons their voting rights, takes away their freedom of expression in society. In other words, disenfranchisement laws unjustly targets the minority by limiting their right to vote which introduces racial discrimination as well as constitutional inequalities.

On the contrary, the opponents believe that denying felons their voting rights is reasonable. They state "A felon has shown criminal judgment, and that is a rational reason for restricting voting rights." (6) However, the proponents have a stronger argument than the opponents because they claim that "once a citizen has completed a sentence, that person's right should be reinstated. The U.S. justice system is far from perfect." (2) This indicates that a felon who has completed a full prison sentence has paid his debt to society, and therefore, should have access to his voting rights.

In summary, the proponents' argument to reinstate felons' voting rights is better supported than the opponent's argument. The proponents prove that it is demoralizing to deprive felons of their voting rights. It is also unfair to ex-felons and discourages them from becoming upstanding members of their community. It is unreasonable to restrict a non-violent felon from casting a ballot as it shows lack of judgment in the felon population. This is also undemocratic since ~~as~~ by the end of the term, the felon has paid the debt that society dictated.

Commented [1]: Okay, but this explanation needs some work. You are basically paraphrasing the quote. You need to be explaining the quote to show how it supports your main idea.

Commented [2]: delete.

Commented [3]: This idea will support your main idea #1 e.g. This shows that it is wrong to deny felons their voting rights because it takes away their freedom of expression by restricting them from participating in the voting process and reestablishing themselves as active members of society.

Commented [4]: This idea will support your main idea #2. This illustrates that it is unfair to deny felons their voting rights because disenfranchisement mostly targets racial minorities at a disproportionately higher rate than other felons, and it perpetuates racial discrimination by denying them access to their constitutional right.

Commented [5]: I am not sure that I understand this reasoning. How does it show a lack of judgement in the felon population? Also, your summary should focus on your three main ideas: unjustifiable, unequal and restriction of freedom.