

soft-headed, constitutional traitor. I was following the Twitter tag after Roseburg and that stuff and the slippery-slope argument got real old fast. This isn't about gun control; it is about gun safety.

- P3: I think if gun owners let their guns fall into the hands of anyone else, they are both responsible for what happens and grossly negligent, and I read that 40% of guns are sold without background checks. The Second Amendment was about keeping the states free from armed invasions. It is about a well-regulated militia. Two hundred years ago we had muskets, not automatic weapons. We also didn't have video games, movies, and television glorifying violence or the Internet and talk radio preaching hate. Moreover, the Constitution allows the government to protect us. It is very American to protect the innocent from reckless individuals. If they go back to using muskets, then I will support the abolition of all gun control. Meanwhile, count me among the 90% of Americans who favored making background checks mandatory with no loopholes.

7:13 P.M.

FACILITATOR: OK, I think what we have in this first discussion is the question of causes. What exactly is the cause of the problem? We will get back to this, but first let's try and determine if there is a problem in the first place. Are these school shootings something for us to be concerned about? (What do you two think?—points to Participants #8 and #9)

PARTICIPANT #8 (P8): Well, yeah, kids killing kids is a big problem.

PARTICIPANT #9 (P9): Certainly, I worry about my kids going to school with all of this violence.

P1: Yeah, but come on, these things are isolated incidents; it is the media who makes it a big deal. If a schoolhouse shooting happened 100 years ago halfway across the country, most of us would never hear about it. Today, the media is so nationalized that everything becomes national news. These 24-hour-a-day news channels and social media outlets need something to keep them going. What would people on Facebook or Twitter do if they could not talk about tragedy and crisis all the time?

P6: A hundred years ago these kids would have been strung up. Today, we coddle them, bring in the counselors, and find excuses. Talk about how their parents are to blame, blah, blah, blah.

P3: I guess we need as a society to actually find out how many killings and shootings happen each year and then decide if it is really a problem.

P9: That is what the media does. The media just tells us what happens. Don't blame the media.

P8: I read in a magazine that there had been 15 killings in the last 18 months or maybe it was 15 separate shooting incidents at schools, and that in the three years since the Newtown massacre of children there have been about 150 school shootings.

P4: I heard that it was only eight shootings a year, not one a week.

7:18 P.M.

FACILITATOR: So is this a problem that society needs to be concerned about? I personally think that it is, but I want to hear from you.

P7: No, there are just bad kids and bad people, always have been. Just because there are some bad people doesn't mean that we should gut the Constitution. These are isolated events. We shouldn't take several school shootings and then use these to find a large national problem. That is poor reasoning. These shootings don't affect me.

7:20 P.M.

FACILITATOR (TO P7): So is the problem just natural or is it subject to human control? I guess that is the central question.

P7: It is just natural, part of human nature. We cannot control the evil that lives inside of some of us or perhaps all of us.

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