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Response 7- October 22nd, 2015

After watching the documentary I was left very confused with many differing opinions and thoughts about the punishment of juveniles who have committed murder. Before watching the video, I thought that “kids who kill,” who are fully aware of their actions at the time, should be sentenced to life in prison. For example, if a 16- year- old committed murder and had no underlying mental health issues or reasons that could alter his decision- making skills then I think he/she should spend the rest of his/her life in prison suffering the consequences. It is such a serious and tough subject for both the victim and the offender and all of the families involved, and that is what makes the decision for sentencing so difficult. After hearing the stories of all the boys in the documentary my opinions have changed based on emotional response and intellectual thinking. I was emotionally torn by the stories of Brian, Jacob, and Josiah. I believe the stories of Tory and Sean had more of an intellectual effect on me. In looking at Tory’s story first, I do not feel bad for him at all nor do I believe that his punishment should be revoked any time soon. I think that he let his parents speak too much on his behalf and guide him on how he should feel, when they were not the ones there the night of Cassie’s murder. His parents have no proof that he did not take part in her murder just as much as Brian did. Another aspect that stuck out to me in Tory’s case is that he did not come clean to hardly any of his actions and I felt like he just wanted others to feel bad for him. He is in prison for a reason; he needs to come to terms with the horrific actions he took part in and work to fix himself as an individual. This is where I believe that Brian has come to terms with his actions and is willing to serve his consequences, and I think that means more to me than Tory trying to make everyone feel sorry for him. In my opinion, I think that I would be more willing to let Brian out on parole before Tory based on the information that the documentary provided to us. I think I became more educated listening to Tory’s story in a way that you can’t just feel sorry for juveniles who commit these crimes, you feel sorry for them if they truly show that they know what they did and are willing to live up to the crime and its severe consequences. Tory, to me, seems like a confused boy still that needs to spend more time in confinement to realize that his actions were wrong. If released, I can honestly say I would see him committing a crime similar to the one he committed again. Even though I was emotionally drawn by the interviews with his parents, they are not the ones in Tory’s position. Although that may be extremely hard to face as parents, the facts are facts and there was sufficient evidence that put Tory away for life without parole. Intellectually, I was swayed by Sean’s story. After being arrested and convicted of murder he set out to make a difference in the world. He realized what he did was wrong and wanted to teach other adolescents like him the severe consequences of such actions and how much it can have a negative and detrimental impact on one’s life. To me, his story positively moved me. Sean made me analyze and think about how a person can change and bring good out of a very bad situation. Sean is an example of an individual that I would be willing to see his life sentence be dropped under the right circumstances. Emotionally, I was the most drawn by Jacob and Josiah’s stories. They both made me realize how much anger can build up inside of a person until he/she just doesn’t know what to do about it any more. Both of these young boys were placed in circumstances where they were mentally, physically, and verbally abused as mentioned in the documentary. It was clear that it was very hard for the boys to talk about it, Josiah being not as willing as Jacob. When childhood abuse is an outlying factor, in any case, I cannot help but feel bad for the individual. I cannot imagine how that would affect your brain and thinking process as a child and the potential negative effects it could cause. This is why after hearing both of their stories I started to feel bad for them and question if they really deserved life in prison. In both of their cases, I think that after much observation and therapy I would be willing to grant them parole after a certain time, but only if I felt like they were mentally stable enough to handle the real world. Sometimes abuse victims can never fully recover from the awful events they faced as a child, and unfortunately even with intense therapy there is nothing else one can do. This would be a very hard fact to face being the family member of an offender who had been abused in his/her past and cannot seem to bounce back from it even as an adult. To me, it seemed like Jacob and Josiah both still had many underlying issues that needed to be addressed, but I did think they seemed very motivated and willing to change. Overall, the documentary made me analyze the brains of the offenders and throughout the film I tried to picture myself in their positions. The hardest part for me to watch of the documentary was the video recordings that were made before and after Cassie’s murder. Those videos alone made my stomach turn and made me want to see both Brian and Tory suffer in prison for the rest of their lives. Hearing a person’s story through a film like this can play a great deal on the emotions and thinking process of the viewer.