



Jennifer Reynolds, 20, STUDENT

What do you think about gun ownership?

I feel like people should have guns because it's not the guns that are killing people, it's the people. I don't see it as a problem as most people do. ... Like the Connecticut shooting, I feel like that guy that did it just walked into an elementary school and started shooting little kids, and that's not right. It's the guy that killed the kids, not the gun. And I believe that, for security purposes, people should have guns. I'm sure once I turn 21 I'm going to get some sort of firearm to carry on me because you never know with the world these days. If someone comes up and starts whacking on me and abusing me, I'm going to pull my gun out, and they are probably going to walk away. I wouldn't want to shoot anybody, but if it is my own life that is in danger, then I probably would.

... A lot of people do own guns and a lot of people are mentally psychotic and decide that, 'Hey, I'm not having a good day so I guess I'll go shoot people just because I can.' But it's that person that's doing it, not the gun.

According to our gun laws, people can buy guns privately and at gun shows without undergoing a background check. What do you think about that?

Again, I don't see it as a problem. A lot of people are good people that have guns. One of my friends, she's a girl, she has a gun and a perfect background: never killed anybody, never been in jail, never abused anybody. She has a gun for security purposes in case something were to happen to her.

At certain points, I guess if they kind of have a look to them you could say a background check is needed — if they are looking fishy about it or not asking enough questions about the gun, just being like, "Oh, I need this gun. I don't want to know about it, I just need it."

... It kind of depends on the person and not everybody needs a background check, but certain people should.

Do you think there should be safety classes for people who purchase guns?

Yes, I do, because, like, back in Alabama a father left his gun on the table or something and his little kid picked it up and shot himself. The gun should have been on lock, but wasn't, and I believe everyone should have a safety class before using a gun, regardless. I shot a gun for the first time about two months ago, and I shot a shotgun and then a pistol when we went up into the mountains. I was like, "Oh my gosh, a lot of power." I didn't have a safety class, but the guy I was with knew what he was doing. He was like, "Here you go" and I was like, "I really want to shoot a gun for the first time," so I did, but if I were to actually buy a gun and have a gun with me at all times, then yes, you should have a safety class.

The NRA recently said, "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."

That's a hard one. I don't know, that's a hard question. I'm in psychology; I should know something like that. I feel like, at the Connecticut shooting for instance, an officer with a gun and then a bad guy with a gun, you know. I'm sure the officer would not want to shoot the guy if he really had a choice in the matter, but it's his job and if he continues the bad choices that he's making then of course the officer is going to have to shoot him because he can't keep killing all of these people.



Art West, 59, RETIRED POLICE OFFICER

Do you think there should be mandatory safety classes for gun owners?

Well, that's a good question. I think safety is obviously critical and important. If someone is going to own a firearm they need to be responsible, number one. I wouldn't have a problem with mandatory safety classes. I think anyone who is responsible would consider that without any problem.

Do you think there should be restrictions on what firearms can be purchased?

It's going to be hard to decide which is and which isn't. Who becomes the arbitrator of if this is OK or if this isn't? When you talk about assault or something semi-automatic, you are talking about a majority of pistols because they are semi-automatic, so that would take you back to only revolvers, which is interesting, being a retired police officer.

Do you think there should be mental health checks before purchasing a firearm?

I wouldn't have any problem with that being required at all. I have a sister who was convicted of murder because she killed a

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