



"FREEDOM FROM EXCESSIVE PUNISHMENT"

Capital Punishment, 8th Amendment

TEXT OF THE 8 TH AMENDMENT (WHAT IT SAYS)	MY INTERPRETATION (WHAT IT MEANS)
Excessive bail shall not be required,	
nor excessive fines imposed,	
nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.	

1. What are the protections of the 8th Amendment?
2. What is happening outside the governor's mansion? Why? What is the issue?
3. What are the arguments against capital punishment that the governor must consider?
4. What are the arguments in support of capital punishment?
5. You are the Governor! Using the language of the 8th Amendment, as well as the arguments for and against capital punishment, what decision would you make in this case? Be prepared to support your answer with textual evidence.
6. How do we define a cruel and unusual punishment? Has that definition changed over time?