

Victims and the Criminal Justice System – CCJ 3667
Dr. Karol Lucken
Assignment #4

- This assignment is worth up to 25 pts.
- The assignment is due no later than **April 17th** at the beginning of class.
- You may turn the assignment in early, but **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- **Do not** e-mail the assignment.
- **Be detailed** in your responses.
- Your response should be **no less** than 1 page typed (DS, 12 pt font, 1” margins).

Answer the following 3 questions based on the article “Thou Shalt Not Kill Any Nice People...”

1. Identify and discuss three arguments against using victim impact statements in the sentencing phase of capital jury trials.
2. Do you find the author’s arguments compelling? Why or Why Not?
3. Identify a solution (of your own) to the problem of using victim impact statements in capital jury cases. The solution should be able to balance the rights of offenders as well as the desire of survivors of homicide to be heard.

The article can be obtained through the library.

Phillips, Amy K. (1997) “Though Shalt Not Kill Any Nice People: The Problem of Victim Impact Statements in Capital Sentencing” in *The American Criminal Law Review*. Vol 35 Issue 1, p. 93-118.