

Cooperative Debate Brief

Proposition: The Federal Government should require police officers to wear body cameras while on duty.

Position: Affirmative

Claim 1: Body cameras will help collect better evidence which will make police officers more accountable and reliable.

First Source-

Lawrence, M. (2015). Lights, camera, action: The age of body cameras in law enforcement and the effects of implementing body camera programs in rural communities. *North Dakota Law Review*, 91(3), 611-632.

Who: Mindy Lawrence, a candidate from the University Of North Dakota Of Law School.

When: 2015

Where: North Dakota Law Review

What:

- There have been many incidents that make you ask yourself, "Did the police really make the right choice in that situation?" With body cameras you won't have to ask ourselves this question because they will gather all the information.
 - These body cameras will record every moment, movements, and words that are being said while the police officers are on duty.
 - Also body cameras can show detailed images of the incidents, conversations, emotional faces, physical wounds, body languages or any hidden clues.
 - With the evidence recorded, it can be used in courts and offer judges and jurors the opportunity to witness these situations and this will help the judges and jurors to make better and fair decisions.
 - Body cameras paint the clear picture of what the witnesses might not remember during the incident, this will also help with clear stories because you will be able to see it in a visual.
- So this puts police officers more accountable and reliable for evidence.

Second Source-

Kim, S. R. (2015). Turning on body-worn cameras. *News Media & The Law*, 39(4), 45-48.

Who: Soo Rin Kim, a undergraduate student from the University of Missouri studying for investigated journalism and reporter of data, while she holds an interest in government.

When: Fall of 2015

Where: News Media & the Law vol. 39 issue 4

What:

Here are some examples on why we need body cameras to be worn while on duty.

- Both of these incidents happened in San Diego California.
- A veteran police officer was confronted with a suspect who had a knife, the police officer said in this incident he did not have on him a body camera, so the SDPD (San Diego Police Department) does not have a clear footage of this case. Maybe if he had on while he was on duty, they could have seen the evidence behind the story.
- Another example: On October of 2015, another incident happened in San Diego where a person was shot by police officers because they had spotted a citizen disturbing traffic, but was the suspect really causing disruption? We really don't know because once again the officers who were involved with this situation failed to have on a body camera.
- Without body cameras it makes it hard to find out the truth on what really happened during the times of the scenes which lacks the evidence for the investigations and for the judges to see if the officers had done the right thing.
- This is why we should require the use of body cameras, for good quality evidence.

Detailed Description

Claim 2: Body cameras have shown some behavior improvements within the citizens

First Source –

Jennings, W. , Fridell, L. , & Lynch, M. (2014). Cops and cameras: Officer perceptions of the use of body-worn cameras in law enforcement. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 42(6), 549-556

Who: Wesley G Jennings, is an undergraduate student for the department of criminology and PhD Associated professor.

Lorie A Fridell, Director of Research at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and a national expert on biased policing

Mathew D Lynch, a research associate.

When: November-December 2014

Where: Journal of Criminal Justice, vol.42

What:

- Researchers did a study on the use of body cameras while they were on duty by conducting a survey with the Orlando Police.
- The results were that the about 77% of the police officers were full on supportive on this idea because this would make them feel a lot safer. So this shows behavior improvement towards these devices.
- They also said about 40.7 % of them saw a benefit of behavior changes with citizens, 19% on themselves and the people around them; because if they saw that they were being recorded there attitudes would change.
- More than half said that body cameras can help reduce complaints against them.
- It also resulted that suspects who know they are being recorded, their attitudes and behaviors changed

Second Source-

Rutkin, A. (2015). Smile, you're on camera. *New Scientist*, 227(3031), 12-13.

Who: Aviva Rutkin, is a newspaper reporter

When: June 25, 2015

Where: United Kingdome newspaper called New Scientist vol. 227 issue 3031

What:

- Body cameras have changed the attitude, they are more accepted
- Policemen and people are starting to view these devices as a good faith between the police officers and the people.
- Some policemen didn't like the idea of body Cameras in the UK but once it started they noticed that when a suspect is being aggressive and as soon as they mention that they were going to be recorded of if they saw that they were going to be recorded, they would notice facial expressions change along with their behaviors.
- This made police officers feel safer because the problem would deescalate and citizens would have no complaints.
- If it worked in the UK, then it should have the same results.
- Although this article was from another county who has tested body cameras, there results have showed positive views for policemen and the public. If it works of them, then we should try it and see it for ourselves.