

**University of Electro-Communications—English for Self-Study**  
**Assignment 3 (distributed April 27, 2020): Using Sources in a One-Sided Argument**

For the last two weeks, you have been practicing how to write a one-sided argument. (If you have not done Assignment 1 or Assignment 2 yet, please do them before you do Assignment 3.) This week, you will continue practicing how to write a one-sided argument and will learn about using *sources* to support your argument.

A source is information or an idea from a newspaper, a magazine, the Internet, a television program, an expert, and so on. Whatever source you use, it should be related to the *topic* you are writing about. A source can be used as part of the background information or as part of a reason.

A common expression that is used to introduce a source is “According to ...” For example:

According to Professor Dentsu at the University of Electro-Communications, engineering and science students need English today more than ever before.

According to Angela Davis, prisons are racist and do not solve the social problems that lead to crime.

In both of these examples, the source is an expert. (The first one is fictional. The second one is a real person.) However, you can also write things such as, “According to Asahi Shimbun, ...” or, “According to a study in Time Magazine, ...” When you cite a source, you should be as specific as possible. You should not, for example, write, “According to the Internet, ...” or, “According to a newspaper article, ...” The problem with these is that they are too vague.

**TASK:**

Use the Internet to find a few sources related to the topic of the death penalty (死刑). (In English, a synonym for “the death penalty” is “capital punishment.”) The sources can be in English, in Japanese, or in any other language that you understand.

**ASSIGNMENT 3:**

Answer the following question with a one-sided argument (about 250 words). In your answer, use one or more of the *sources* that you found either as part of the background or to support one of your reasons.

Do you think that the death penalty prevents crime? Why or why not?