On February 26, 2001, the Bakersfield Californian printed an article titled “Request to Televise Execution Debated” by Mark Jurkowitz. According to Jurkowitz, the issue of televising executions was on the minds of many people. Certain free speech advocates like Paul McMasters and journalists like Mike Wallace believe it’s the public’s right to see executions. However, Jurkowitz also points out that most networks and the Federal Bureau of Prisons want executions to remain unseen by most citizens. I agree with people like McMasters and Wallace. The American public has every right to witness an execution on television.

Executions on television will cause many people to think twice about committing crimes. For example, teaching kids that crime doesn’t pay. Parents could use these executions on television as a learning tool to explain the outcome of serious crime. Sure, some people will disagree, but they can’t face the facts.

Televised executions are no different than scenes of violence that are currently shown on television. For example, the 9/11 victims and stuff on some reality shows. I saw some guys kill a fish on Survivor and thought it was great. The point is televised violence is nothing new, so executions shouldn’t be any different.

Showing executions on television becomes a free speech issue. If it’s legal for judges to sentence people to death, why not let American’s see it? What is the prison system trying to hide? What other freedoms could Americans be losing? Why all the secrecy? If capital punishment is legal, there should be no problem with showing it television. What’s to be afraid of?

A hundred and fifty years ago, executions were done in public for everyone to see. So those people who say children will be damaged by seeing an execution on television do not realize that this was a very common event at one time. And interestingly, morality was probably a lot higher and the crime rate much lower in the past than it is today where most of the public is forbidden to see an execution. Showing someone die might be a “slippery slope of declining cultural and news standards,” but it can’t be any worse than watching the casual hook-ups that happen during the first ten minutes of The Real World.

Executions on televisions are no big deal. Not to most people I know. You see this stuff all the time on the Internet. Even on most reality shows. Instead of making people so worried, televised executions might actually bring back some morality to American television programming. Therefore, I say all those opposed to it should step back and face reality. Light ‘em up! And roll the cameras.
Television violence is nothing new, and violent or shocking material is not going to be off the air any time soon. This is the very issue being discussed in Mark Jurkowitz's article “Request to Televisate Execution Debated” published on February 26, 2001 in the Bakersfield Californian. According to Jurkowitz, there is a controversy over whether televised executions should become a reality. Although most networks don’t want to show an execution, Jurkowitz says certain freedom advocates and journalists like Mike Wallace believe it’s our rights as Americans to see people put to death on television. I couldn’t agree more! Televised executions are a great way to educate people about the death penalty, and it could definitely lower the crime rate in America. Also, scenes of violence are common and not unconstitutional, so if Americans, especially adults, want to see someone on death row get killed, they should have that right.

First of all, a televised execution could have enormous educational value. While some children or mentally unstable people might have trouble watching a person die, a live execution might make those who support the death penalty think twice about their beliefs on capital punishment. If people could “take a look at what happens” as Mike Wallace suggests, they might find they don’t actually support the death penalty after all.

Watching a live execution on television could also have a serious impact on future criminals. For example, seeing an inmate getting a lethal injection might cause someone to reconsider harming an innocent person. Jurkowitz says the Federal Bureau of Prisons stresses that “no photographic or other visual or audio recording of the execution shall be permitted.” This is a huge mistake! If more people could see a death row inmate’s last dying breath during a televised execution, there would definitely be a lot less criminals overcrowding the prison system.

Furthermore, as an adult who enjoys watching a certain amount of violence, I am offended by certain individuals who want to water down what I am allowed to watch on television. Harry Potter might be great for kids, but I want to see reality on television, and part of that reality is a certain amount of violence. Jurkowitz says that currently most major networks have no interest in showing someone on television being put to death. These networks are obviously owned by cowards who are afraid to let adults watch programs with serious content such as an execution!

All in all, not everyone is going to want to watch an execution on television. However, for those who do want to see this programming, it can be quite educational and could serve as a great crime deterrent. Finally, this issue screams of potential censorship and restricts freedoms all Americans are entitled to. What do I care if some little brat has bad dreams because he saw some bad guy get fried? Therefore, rather than controlling what Americans have a right to see on television, the government should allow executions to be televised.
According to the article “Request to Televise Execution Debated” printed in the February 26 2001 issue of the Bakersfield Californian. “The McVeigh case is not the first time in recent memory that televised executions have been on the front burner. San Francisco public television station KQED unsuccessfully sued to film the 1992 execution of Robert Alton Harris for a documentary.” I think the death penalty is ok. I agree with the article that executions should be televised.

First, I think the death penalty is a good thing. If people commit a bad crime, they should be killed. In California, the death penalty is legal. It’s legal to kill criminals if they kill someone else. According to the article, Timothy wants his execution shown on television.

Next, a bedrock principle underlying freedom of speech is that the government can’t keep things from us. If it does, it is a violation of your rights. They can’t do that to us because we have a right to see this. If we didn’t, we would be living in Russia.

Furthermore, I think all serious criminals should be put to death, but not if they have some family members who might see it. What would there kids think? What about there parents? Mark says McVeigh’s request for a broadcast of his May 16 execution has ignited a debate. I’m sure his parents aren’t too proud of it, so don’t blame them they probably couldn’t help what he did. Why should they be harassed for what he did? He did it, not them so leave them alone.

Finally, most people want to see violence. I like violent shows like COPS and Law & Order. It’s very realistic and you see close up shots of people getting killed. It’s almost like your there. Those shows are the bomb! About a week ago, I saw some fool get arrested in his boxers. This dude jacked a car but they took his _ss right to jail and the cops were laughing at this dude cause he was in his boxers! A execution on TV would be even better.

Anyway, television executions would be fun to watch, so yes I agree with the article and think seeing a person die on my TV would be great.