INTERNET RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT - “The Death Penalty”

Paper is due: Thursday, April 28, 2016
Worth 100 points (5 bonus points for submitting paper on or before Tuesday, April 26th.)

Using scholarly academic sources (NOT WIKIPEDIA) write a 1 page summary for EACH of the cases listed below. Then, choose five (5) issues related to the death penalty debate and summarize the debate over each in a minimum of 2 page for EACH issue. Your total paper should be a MINIMUM (which means a “C” grade) of 12 pages total; 2 pages for summarizing the cases and 10 pages discussing the various issues surrounding the death penalty debate.

Please analyze the following United States Supreme Court decisions:

Furman v. Georgia (1972) – Landmark Supreme Court ruling which effectively put a moratorium on the death penalty in the U.S. until consistent standards were used across the 50 states.

Gregg v. Georgia (1976) – A crucial ruling which upheld the use of the death penalty.

Your analysis of each of the above cases should include the following:

1) **Background** of the case to include how the case reached the Supreme Court, legal issues involved in the case, & facts of the case.

2) An assessment of the court’s **majority opinion** (the voting block of justices responsible for joining in the majority. You should list the final vote (i.e. 7-2, 6-3, etc.) & who wrote the majority opinion for the court. Additionally, please summarize that majority opinion including any concurring opinions. What were the legal issues & rationale used by the court to support their position?

3) Outline the court’s **minority opinion** (that is, those justices who were in the minority voting block. As with the majority, indicate who wrote the dissenting opinion, who joined in and, if any, other dissenting opinions.

4) **Your own opinion** with regard to the outcome of the case with special attention to how you would have voted and why.

5) **Conclusion** – to include any implications for public policy formulation & how, if at all, this shaped or changed the law in the given area.

Your paper will need to have at least 10 citations of websites you used for your research. Please use MLA citation and use INTERNAL citations. NO CREDIT will be given for papers without internal citation. It is your responsibility to summarize, not “lift” portions of your research. Please include a works cited page at the end of your paper.
Consider the following issues: (Choose 5 and write a minimum of 2 page summary/analysis for each).

1. Racial discrimination and the death penalty.
2. The mentally impaired and the death penalty.
3. The death penalty and juveniles.
5. The right to effective assistance (legal defense) and the death penalty.
6. Aggravating and mitigating factors and the death penalty.
7. Deterrence and the death penalty.
8. The appeals process and the death penalty.
10. Due process and the death penalty.