Write a critical essay that addresses the death penalty and the issue as it relates to the Eighth Amendment using the points below. 

Critical essays should demonstrate knowledge of content and reasoning, and you should clearly draw a conclusion based on existing scholarly literature. 

It is expected that your entire submission be a *minimum* of 700 words to receive full credit and that you include a list of at least three scholarly sources of information. You do not need to include the writing prompts in your submission, as they will not be included in the word count.

All submissions should adhere to APA (7th ed.) writing guidelines for formatting in-text citations and a Reference page of sources. 

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1. What does it mean for a punishment to be “cruel and unusual”?

2.  Based on your research of the topic, does use of \_\_\_\_\_\_ (insert one topic listed above that you want to focus on) violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause in the 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution? Why or why not?

Swiffen, A. (2016). Mastery Over the Time of the Other: The Death Penalty and Life in Prison Without Parole.*Law and Critique, 27*(2), 171-186. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10978-016-9178-z>

Boys, S. (2011). The Death Penalty: An Unusual Punishment America is Inflicting Upon Itself. *Critical Criminology*, *19*(2), 107–118. <https://doi-org.proxy103.nclive.org/10.1007/s10612-010-9115-7>

Coleman, J. E. (2018). ONE WAY OR ANOTHER THE DEATH PENALTY WILL BE ABOLISHED, BUT ONLY AFTER THE PUBLIC NO LONGER HAS CONFIDENCE IN ITS USE. *Duke Journal of Constitutional Law & Public Policy*, *13*(2), 15+. https://link-gale-com.proxy103.nclive.org/apps/doc/A574177305/AONE?u=mars16900&sid=summon&xid=d7d65cdc