Deadline

Task:

1. Discuss and debate answers to the questions below.
2. Choose 6 of them to answer, individually. (Each is worth 5 marks)
3. Choose the quotation on the accompanying page that best represents your view on capital punishment. Explain why. (5 marks)

I have always found that mercy bears richer fruits than strict justice.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN, speech, 1865

1. Why do many perceive that the imposition of the death penalty is so unjust?
2. What seems to be wrong in the American system? Can you find parallels in other countries? What about Canada?
3. When Gov. Ryan created this commission, what might the feelings of the stakeholders have been? (Ex. police, prosecutors, defence attorneys, victims, convicted, general public)
4. Which story was the most compelling to you (impacted you the most)? In what way and why?
5. Why would the filmmakers have chosen to use so many stories of individuals?
6. How did the conversations with those convicted of crimes (rightly and wrongfully) influence you? What similarities are there amongst them?
7. Why is education seen as the key to this debate?
8. How did the documentary change or reinforce your feelings about capital punishment?
9. What is the significance of Governor Ryan’s commission? What long term impacts could it have?
10. When the governor announced his decision, he reminded listeners that prosecutors have ‘awesome power’ because when someone is charged with a crime it reads, ‘United States v You’ or “Illinois v You’. What does he mean by this?
11. How do you feel about Governor Ryan’s decision? Was he right to decide as he did? Explain your reasons.