

Name: _____ Block: _____ Date: _____

HANDOUT 2: Principles of Sentencing: Read-React

Your group will be assigned one or more of the following statements for discussion, reflection and a reaction that you will present to the class. Read the assigned statement, discuss its meaning with your group, take five minutes to write out your reflections and present an opinion to the class.

- Strict laws and severe punishments are needed to regulate the naturally immoral behaviour of men.
- The punishment for a crime is best measured by the harm it causes to society.
- The more severe the punishment the more likely that the crime will not be committed.
- The certainty of punishment is a better deterrent to crime than the severity of the punishment.
- Clear and simple laws, swift justice and proportionate sentences will prevent more crime than severe punishments alone.
- The true measure of the seriousness of a crime is the harm it causes society not the harm it causes the victim.
- Judges must not be allowed to interpret the laws of Parliament, only to enforce them.
- Judges are incapable of avoiding bias in the judgments they write. Therefore they must have little freedom when sentencing offenders.
- Criminals should not be detained until they are sentenced.
