

U.S. companies end ties with gun group NRA

27th February, 2018



An increasing number of companies are announcing plans to sever ties with the USA's National Rifle Association (NRA) following the latest high-school shooting massacre. The

tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in South Florida, in which 17 students and staff lost their lives, could be a watershed for gun control in the USA. Many high profile companies are calling for gun control and are cutting ties with the powerful NRA lobby group. United Airlines, Delta Airlines and Hertz are among many companies to end special discounts and benefits for NRA staff and members. There is also a growing campaign on social media for greater gun control in the USA.

The NRA made a statement attacking the failure of both school and federal systems for the high school tragedy. It said: "The law-abiding members of the NRA had nothing at all to do with the failure of that school's security preparedness, the failure of America's mental health system...or the cruel failures of both federal and local law enforcement." It added that: "Despite that, some corporations have decided to punish NRA membership in a shameful display of political and civic cowardice." An NRA spokesman hit back at the companies, saying: "The loss of a discount will neither scare nor distract one single NRA member from our mission to stand and defend individual freedoms."

Sources:
abcnews.go.com / reuters.com / commondreams.org

Writing

The world would be a better place without guns. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

increasing / companies / ties / rifle / students / discounts / benefits / gun control / statement / high school / law abiding / mental health / law enforcement / freedom

True / False

- A decreasing number of U.S. companies will cut ties with the NRA. T / F
- The article suggested this latest tragedy could bring changes. T / F
- United Airlines has said it will continue its partnership with the NRA. T / F
- NRA members will still get discounts and benefits from Hertz. T / F
- The NRA blamed the school's security for the tragedy. T / F
- The NRA blamed the tragedy on America's mental health system. T / F
- The NRA said companies were acting like cowards. T / F
- The NRA said its members would be distracted by losing discounts. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. increasing | a. readiness |
| 2. sever | b. turning point |
| 3. massacre | c. sidetrack |
| 4. watershed | d. slaughter |
| 5. end | e. penalize |
| 6. law-abiding | f. growing |
| 7. preparedness | g. disgraceful |
| 8. punish | h. terminate |
| 9. shameful | i. honest |
| 10. distract | j. cut |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why is the NRA so powerful in the USA?
- What do you think about gun control?
- Is the NRA right to say the school was at fault?
- Where does mental health fit into gun control laws?
- How can schools better protect students?
- What advice do you have for the NRA?
- What questions would you like to ask the company bosses?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. following the latest high-school | a. on social media |
| 2. Many high | b. abiding members of the NRA |
| 3. the powerful NRA lobby | c. shooting massacre |
| 4. end special discounts and | d. enforcement |
| 5. There is also a growing campaign | e. group |
| 6. The law- | f. freedoms |
| 7. the failure of America's mental | g. back at the companies |
| 8. federal and local law | h. benefits for NRA staff |
| 9. An NRA spokesman hit | i. health system |
| 10. defend individual | j. profile companies |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of guns?
- What are gun laws like in your country?
- What do you know about the NRA in the USA?
- Will the latest tragedy be a watershed for gun control?
- Why are there so many shootings in the USA?
- Are companies right to cut ties with the NRA?
- Will the gun situation get better or worse?
- Should people have a right to keep and bear guns?

Spelling

- companies are anoinncung plans
- high-school shooting aesmarsc
- a wadeserth for gun control
- Many high eiolfrrp companies
- end special sntcdsuoi and benefits
- a growing gcpiaamn
- made a statement attacking the aiferul
- faedrl systems
- The wal-bgandij members of the NRA
- local law feemtnrneoc
- political and civic acrwiodge
- neither scare nor caitsdtr

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. d	4. b	5. h
6. i	7. a	8. e	9. g	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Education

You think education is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, free speech or gun ownership.

Role B – Health Care

You think health care is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): education, free speech or gun ownership.

Role C – Free Speech

You think free speech is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, education or gun ownership.

Role D – Gun Ownership

You think gun ownership is our most important right. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their rights aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): health care, free speech or education.

Speaking – Rights

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important rights at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| • health care | • education |
| • freedom of religion | • a free Internet |
| • free speech | • freedom of movement |
| • carry a gun | • paid overtime |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.