

# VIGILANTE `JUSTICE' BREEDS ANARCHY

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The notion of "vigilante justice" has a powerful, emotional appeal for many Americans.

Fueling their anger and frustration are violent criminals who sneer while escaping punishment, revolving-door prisons and films or TV shows like Death Wish and L.A. Law.

So they cheer when ordinary citizens get fed up enough to take the law into their own hands and kill the bad guy. For once, they cry, justice is swift and certain.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices
The author introduces the topic of vigilante justice and compares it to television shows and movies.	Pathos.	Narration. Example. Comparison.

So much for fiction.

In real life, "vigilante justice" isn't justice at all. It's morally and legally wrong, and carries a criminal penalty tough enough to make the cheering stop. Doubters should consider the case of Ellie Nesler.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices
The author transitions to the real case of Ellie Nesler.	Claim of truth. Claim of consequence. Logos	Emphatic Sentence is used to transition from movies to a real life case.

On April 2, 1992, this Sonora, Calif., woman became a folk heroine to many people when she killed a man accused of molesting four boys, including her 6-year-old son. Nesler pumped five bullets into Daniel Driver's head as he sat shackled in a courtroom awaiting a hearing on a possible trial. She claimed she was temporarily insane, provoked when Driver, 35, smirked at her.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices

Nesler received 5,000 letters from sympathizers and collected \$40,000 in donations for her defense. A neighbor said, "We'll find her innocent and build a statue of her on the courthouse lawn."

Smiling and waving to cheering fans wearing "Support Ellie" T-shirts, Nesler showed no remorse, behaving as if she fully expected a wave of public support to set her free. She was wrong; so were her fans.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices

The first shock came last Aug. 11 when a jury convicted her of voluntary manslaughter. The second shock came Friday, when a judge ignored pleas for leniency, sentencing her to 10 years. Nesler and her fans probably regard Superior Court Judge William Polley as a villain. Instead, he deserves praise for doing his job - upholding the law and the principle that vigilante justice breeds anarchy.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices

Police, prosecutors, judges and state lawmakers must stand firm against vigilante justice. But they dare not ignore the mounting anger and frustration among ordinary people who cannot understand why so many convicted felons, such as child molesters, don't get an adequate penalty, and why repeat offenders like him aren't locked away for life.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices

Ellie Nesler may be unhappy with her conviction and sentence. Unlike Daniel Driver, she was not executed without a trial. Instead, she was given what she denied him - a chance to speak out in court, to face a jury of her peers and to get a taste of real justice.

Summary	Rhetorical Strategies	Rhetorical Devices