

**Your written assignments should have a heading in the following format.**

**Your header should contain your last name, the course number, and page number.**

Last Name/ Course/ 1

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**Title centered and in italics or quotation marks.**

*Silencing the Suppressor Myth*

**First line of paragraphs is indented.**

A shadowy figure prowls along rooftops, slinking as quiet as a cat on the hunt. They aim their pistol, fit with a suppressor, and fire a round at an unseen target. The sound their pistol makes is no louder than a bee whizzing by your ear. That imagining of the firearm suppressor or silencer has been used again and again, countless times in film, television, comics, etc. Despite how invasive this image has become, an image the suppressor has never been able to shake or silence, the depiction lacks any firm ground in the science and actual usage of a suppressor. The ultimate victim in all of this is the hearing for all firearm users and bystanders. Film and media's portrayal of firearm suppressors has created a myth that does not exist, which has prevented quality hearing protection for firearm owners and others from being easily attainable.

**One-inch margins for top, bottom, left and right.**

**Paper is left justified and double spaced.**

A story told a thousand times will begin to be accepted as truth, regardless of whether it is or not. This is the dilemma the suppressor is facing. Like all stories though, there was an initial purpose or agenda for placing the suppressor in the same category as a machinegun. The often-used examples in relation to this comes from the "Gangster Era" Hollywood films of the 1920's and 1930's. These films, and the prohibition era violence they mythologized, is often pointed to as a deciding factor in the National Firearms Acts being enacted. However, there's another important element to this story that is lesser known but far more impactful on how the NFA and the suppressor first became linked. William T. Hornaday, the director of the Bronx Zoo, wrote a book in 1913, wherein he argued that there was an overhunting issue in America, and

suppressors were part of the problem. “According to Hornaday, one problem was that modern guns were too accurate. . . .in Wyoming, hunters were using silencers so one shot didn’t frighten

**In-text citations are used whenever a source is due to minority groups. He pointed the finger at immigrants, African Americans, and the lower class. “Hornaday favored an Alabama proposal for an annual tax of at least \$5 a year on every firearm, to prevent poor people from owning inexpensive guns” (Kopel, 2017, p. 3). This meant**

away other game” (Kopel, 2017, p. 2). Still, it wasn’t the hunting that was the problem for Hornaday though, it was who was doing the hunting. To Hornaday, the overhunting issue was due to minority groups. He pointed the finger at immigrants, African Americans, and the lower class. “Hornaday favored an Alabama proposal for an annual tax of at least \$5 a year on every firearm, to prevent poor people from owning inexpensive guns” (Kopel, 2017, p. 3). This meant

making even the cheapest firearms difficult to obtain, as well as pushing for suppressors and other firearm related items to be taxed and made difficult to get by those without the money to do so. Many of the legislation that Hornaday pushed for came into being, and the influence could be

seen in the enactment of the NFA (Kopel, 2017, p. 6). As history would show, the NFA did little to keep machineguns and the like out of the hands of the people it was painted to; gangsters and other dangerous persons:

**Direct quotes should be put in quotation marks.**

“Those men had the money to still afford these weapons, it was just those without the financial means that were kept on the outside. Economic and racial tensions drove this agenda to some degree, along with the outlandish and ethnic stereotypes used in the gangster films of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.” (SAMPLE BLOCK QUOTE)

**For direct quotes that take up four or more lines, use a block quote by indenting the quote on both sides by half an inch and justifying the text**

Both of these factors are what landed the suppressor in the same category as a machine gun, despite the obvious differences between the two as a “danger” in civilian hands.

Since economic agendas and film portrayals don’t offer a true depiction of a suppressor, its capabilities and positive attributes, it’s important to peek behind the curtain and see the suppressor for what it really is, a hearing protection aid. A firearm, depending on the type of course, has an average decibel range of 140 to 170. . .

**Bibliography  
should be in  
alphabetical  
order**

## **Bibliography**

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