Annotated Bibliography

"Adolescent Brain Development." *Adolescent Brain Development*. Fact Sheets, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This fact sheet gives brief information about adolescent brain development, including decision-making skills and susceptibility to outside influence. It’s useful for the lay person, to get a few facts right away, but it has no references and was posted on a site whose intention is to persuade readers that juveniles should not be charged as adults, so it may have bias.

"Delinquency (criminology)." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This short encyclopedic entry defines delinquency and discusses the similarities between juveniles and adults. It’s useful because many articles refer to delinquency, which is essentially a crime committed by a juvenile that would be prosecuted if the individual were an adult. It helps to create a link between juvenile crimes and being tried as an adult and would, therefore, be useful for arguing for charging youth as adults. Or, it must be contended with if arguing against such charges.

"Juvenile Justice." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This provides a concise definition and explanation of what juvenile justice is and is quite useful because it delineates the basic difference between juvenile justice and the regular or criminal justice system. It is the starting point for any argument.

*Juvenile Justice vs Adult Justice*. Frontline, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This documents directly compares various aspects of the juvenile and adult—or criminal—systems, including rehabiltiation, public access, jury trials, posting bond and more. It is interesting background information but is not likely the deciding factor in assigning youth to the juvenile or criminal system.

Kohlberg Tutorial." *Kohlberg Tutorial*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This document summarizes Kolhberg’s theory of moral reasoning. It begins with a scenario and asks the readers what they would do. It then briefly describes each stage and then gives more information for each level. It is useful background information since I’m dealing with moral choices and many other philosophers and theorists reference it. However, I’m not sure that I could make a decision about juveniles tried as adults based solely on this because it makes no reference to age.

"Proscuting Young Children As Adults." *Facts Sheet*. Campaign for Youth Justice, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This document summarizes the findings released by the University of Texas about how the U.S. prison system treats juveniles who are treated as adults by the justice system. It is informative and includes a link to the full report, but I am not sure that the issue is treatment. The issue is whether they should be charged as adults, so while interesting, it may not be useful.

Reaves, Jessica. "Should the Law Treat Kids and Adults Differently." *Time Magazine*. Time Warner, 17 May 2001. Web. 07 Nov. 2010.

This easy-to-read article gave some examples of juvenile offenders and posited the question of whether juveniles and adults should be treated differently. It summarized arguments on both sides but gave no conclusion, allowing readers to make up their minds. It’s really a “fluffy” piece but could be useful for quick references to the two sides’ points of view. One last drawback is that it is over ten years old; some people might assume that’s too old, and that newer sources would be better, but if this is a philosophical question: should they be treated differently, I’m not sure that ten years is too old. Perhaps if laws have changed since then it would be, so more information is needed if I were to use this source.

Steinberg, Lance. "Should Juvenile Offenders Be Tried as Adults? A Developmental Perspective on Changing Legal Policies." Speech. Juvenile Crime: Causes and. Washington, DC. 19 Jan. 2000. Temple University and The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Research Network, 07 Jan. 2000. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This excerpt from a speech was highly informative and laid out three main reasons that juveniles are often thought of as “too young” to stand trial as adults. In analyzing the three reasons, Steinberg shows the difference in ages (reasoning skills between twelve- and sixteen-year-old) and decides which age groups would be appropriate to try as adults. This is a highly useful text as it comes from a reliable source and shows the exact differences between the various age groups.

"Serious Crime Rate in Schools." *Youth Violence Project: National Statistics*. University of Virginia, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This source gave a variety of graphs and statistics dealing with crime rates in school, focusing mainly on how crime rates have gone down. It’s informative but not terribly useful because we’re not talking about all teens and how many teen (or pre-teens, for that matter) commit “adult” crimes but whether or not they should be charged as adults. You may be able to twist your reasoning to fit it, like, “because it’s a smaller issue that it used to be…” but I still think that’s beside the point.

"Teen Brains Are Not Fully Developed." *Fact Sheets*. Campaign for Youth Justice, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This document explains how and why teens’ brains work to the lay person and connects the notion of teen brain development to the justice court system, explaining why we have a juvenile system that is separate from the regular criminal justice system. It is useful because, one, it is easy to understand and two, it establishes why juveniles should be treated differently than adults. However, it gives no sources and was posted on a site whose intent is to persuade readers against charging minors as adults.

"The Reasons for Treating Juveniles Differently"" *Juvenile Justice*. Frontline, n.d. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This shows three different answers to the question of why juveniles are treated differently, which mostly comes down to maturity. It is a good source because two responders are judges and well-acquainted with this question, the other has been a supervisor in the juvenile system in California and is also reliable. This is a great source because it deals directly with the question at hand and is reliable.

United States. U.S. Dept of Justice. Office of Justice Programs. *Trying Juveniles as Adults: An Analysis of State Transfer Laws and Reporting*. By Patrick Griffin, Sean Addie, and Kathy Firestine. N.p., Sept. 2011. Web. 07 Nov. 2012.

This government document summarized and analyzed many issues dealing with the transfer of juveniles from the juvenile court system to the criminal court system, everything from rates and percentages to housing conditions and laws. It compares states and gives many statistics and charts. It is useful background information and helps to negate claims that juveniles are always treated worse in the criminal system than the juvenile system, though it does not specifically deny that that sometimes happens.