

FIGURE 11.6

Arguments For and Against Three Strikes

Pros

It will limit the number of times that career offenders are processed through the justice system, thus saving money.

The laws will deter repeat offenders from committing new felonies that would result in long sentences.

The laws offer public protections by incarcerating chronic offenders who have a violent potential.

Cons

Long prison sentences are a waste of scarce resources.

Over time, the laws may produce overcrowding.

There is little evidence that longer prison terms reduce crime rates.

