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Persuasive Research Essay Topics

Remember - your topic must be "research-able"! If there are no valid sources available for research, you may not choose it!!

*You may NOT write about abortion, the death penalty, assisted suicide, the legalization of marijuana, or gay marriage!
*

[ProCon.org](#) - a great resource to start your project/generate ideas.

Successful Past BHS Persuasive Essays:

- Athletes should not be drafted out of high school.
- The US should be using alternate energy sources.
- The image of women in music videos is degrading.
- Juveniles who commit serious crimes should be tried as adults.
- Women should be able to play in the NBA.
- Cloning should not be legalized.
- Rappers perpetuate poverty, violence, and sexual degradation.
- A college education should be free.
- State colleges should be free for residents.
- International foreign born basketball players should not e allowed to play in the NBA.

Others...

- Should boxing be banned?
- Should the driving age be raised to 18?
- Should semi-automatic weapons be banned?
- Should teens who murder be executed?
- Should hunting be outlawed?
- Should recycling be mandatory?
- Should schools require student uniforms?
- Should college athletes be paid?
- Should condoms be available in high school?
- Should handguns be banned?
- Should legal immigration be stopped?
- Should dying people be kept on life support?
- Should tobacco products be banned?
- Should the logging industry be allowed to harvest public forests?
- Should state lotteries be banned?
- Should alcoholic beverages be banned?
- Should alcoholic beverages be legalized for all ages?
- Should the Internet be censored?
- Should school prayer be allowed?
- Should music lyrics be censored?
- Should extremist groups (i.e. ***, skinheads) be banned?
- Should parents of teen vandals be held responsible for their child's damage?
- Should research on cloning be discontinued?
- Should convicted sex offenders' names be made public?
- Should affirmative action laws which give special privileges to minorities be eliminated?
- Should a rookie salary cap be enforced in pro sports?
- Should the U.S. provide foreign aid?
- Should females in the military be excluded from combat and other "hazardous" duties?
- Should high schools be segregated by the sex of the student?
- Should parents of students who are excessively absent from school be prosecuted under the law?
- Should "home schooling" be permitted?
- Should Native Americans be allowed to have gambling casinos on their reservations?
- Should students failing their classes in high school have their driver's license revoked?
- Should pros be allowed to draft college athletes before they graduate?
- Should wolves be reintroduced to public lands?
- Should free, disposable needles be given to drug addicts?
- Should adopted children be given the choice of contacting their biological parents?
- Should mothers who give their children up for adoption be allowed to keep their identity secret?
- Should welfare be limited by time?
- Should all pregnant women be required to take an AIDS test?
- Should off-shore drilling be banned?
- Should school funding come from local property taxes?
- Should casino gambling be legalized in Ohio?

- Should the U.S. phase out the Electoral College (regarding presidential elections)?
- Should abortion be legal?
- Should students be required to pass proficiency tests in order to graduate from high school?
- Should people pulled over for DUI have their license suspended for life?
- Should pagers and cell phones be allowed in school?
- Should families of victims be allowed to decide the punishment of those who commit crimes?
- Should smoking be allowed in school?

From <http://www.personal.kent.edu/~hnsmith/topiclist.htm>

1. Should pornography be restricted by law?
2. What is the impact of automation on American culture and lifestyles?
3. Should newspaper reporters be required to reveal their sources?
4. Should law or custom regarding American funeral practices be revised?
5. Should parents and other interested citizens censor textbooks and other literature for children in schools?
6. Where and how, if at all, should sex education be conducted?
7. Should the United States have mandatory military conscription? For whom?
8. Should laws regarding minimum wage (or the forty-hour work week) be revised?
9. Should mandatory (or voluntary) prayer be permitted in public schools?
10. Should the government provide child day care centers for working parents?
11. Should donors or their families be compensated for organ donations? How should people be selected to receive donor organs?
12. Should homosexuals be permitted to serve in the armed forces?
13. Should genetic engineering be controlled by law?
14. What impact on the family (or the workplace) have changes in gender roles had?
15. Have the large salaries of professional athletes had a negative impact on the athletes or the sports?
16. How should colleges manage their athletic programs in relation to their academic goals?
17. Do certain children's toys create social or emotional or other problems?
18. Should public servants (like school teachers, hospital workers, trash collectors) have the right to strike?
19. Should imports of foreign cars or other foreign products be limited or restricted by law?
20. Should academic freedom for teachers and students be limited by law?
21. Does society have an obligation to protect privacy as a basic individual right?
22. Should sex and violence on television or in the movies be restricted?
23. To what extent does the private life and private morality of a public figure affect his or her ability to serve the public interest?
24. Should divorce laws be changed in ways that will be more equitable or just for all the parties?
25. What restrictions should be placed on polygraph testing (or drug testing or personality testing such as Meyers-Brigg Type Indicator) either for the criminal justice system or for the workplace?
26. What place should "creationism" have in the public education system?
27. Should controversial speakers (on whatever subject) be allowed on college campuses?
28. What types of regulations of smoking in public places should the legal system impose?
29. Do "beauty" contests (Mr. America, Miss America, etc.) serve any purpose in society?
30. Should "victimless crimes" such as prostitution and other sexual activity between consenting adults be free from governmental interference?
31. Are American Indians being treated fairly in the 1990s?
32. What prevention techniques and/or penalties should be applied to child molestation and child abuse?
33. Does the American system of justice need reform to ensure that criminals are properly punished?
34. To what extent should individuals have the protection of the law and the assistance of the medical establishment in terminating their own lives?
35. What should be done to protect the rights of minorities (of all kinds) in America in the 1990s?
36. What techniques should the public schools use to strengthen literacy at all grade levels?
37. Should children be required to attend school past the age of sixteen?
38. Should a rating system be required for song lyrics?
39. To what extent should advertising aimed at children be regulated by law?
40. Should the courts require that contracts and other legal documents be written in nontechnical language so that clients can understand the documents?
41. Should English be declared the official language of the United States?
42. To what extent should bilingual education be offered in public schools?
43. What role should the federal government take in dealing with the problem of AIDS, homelessness, or other widespread social, medical, and economical problems (pick only one problem for a focus)?
44. Should surrogate motherhood be either banned or regulated by law?
45. Should adoption records be open rather than sealed?
46. Should unapproved drugs be made available as a last resort to patients with conditions for which conventional treatments are known to be ineffective?
47. Should tobacco companies be held responsible for smoking-related illnesses and deaths?
48. Should bartenders be held responsible for the behavior of their patrons?
49. Is rehabilitation of felony offenders possible? Desirable?
50. Should the federal government provide health care for all citizens who cannot afford their own?
51. Should juvenile offenders be tried and punished as adults?

<http://www.tcc.edu/students/resources/writcent/handouts/writing/restopics.htm>

