

## Controversial Topics

Use the resources below for finding information on controversial topics. Your instructor may have used other similar terms for your research assignment, such as hot topics, taking a stand, advocacy and argument, pro and con, or persuasive essay/speech. Because of disagreements in controversial topics, books and articles often have biases, conclusions based on emotions or beliefs, facts taken out of context, and authors lacking authority. It is important to carefully evaluate all sources of information, especially websites.

# ??? I'm not sure what topic to pick ???

- [IDEA: International Debate Education Association](#) Arguments for and against hundreds of debating topics.
- [Pros & Cons of Controversial Issues](#) "Controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan primarily pro-con format."
- [Wikipedia: List of Controversial Issues](#) Hundreds of topics, arranged by categories.

## Start your research here

- The [Opposing Viewpoints series](#) of print books examines a wide range of controversial issues from many points of view. Each book is devoted to one topic, such as abortion, the death penalty (capital punishment), global warming, etc. You can find these books by looking at the [list of Opposing Viewpoints titles](#) (including the call number and floor locations) or use the [Library Catalog](#) by typing "opposing viewpoints" into the search box plus a one or two word topic. For example, "opposing viewpoints gun control" or "opposing viewpoints poverty."
- [CQ Researcher Plus Archive](#): A Library online database of controversial & current events articles.

### I need magazine, newspaper and journal articles from the Library [databases](#)

- [Academic Search Elite \(EBSCO\)](#): General purpose, multi-subject source.
- [CQ Weekly](#): American government, commerce, politics, current affairs and public policy.
- [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#): For background material on a subject.
- [JSTOR](#): Scholarly, full text articles.
- [Lexis-Nexis](#): Use the "Search the News" section.
- [Newspapers \(Proquest\)](#): Full text newspaper articles, editorials & opinions.
- [OmniFile Full Text Mega \(Wilson Web\)](#): General purpose, multi-subject source.

### Congress, the Supreme Court and the World: monthly online articles

- [Congressional Digest](#) Controversial issues before the U.S. Congress.
- [Supreme Court Debates](#) "Current court cases and controversies emanating from or surrounding the U.S. Supreme Court."
- [International Debates](#) Latest controversies in the United Nations and world affairs.

### Enhance the quality of your paper with [statistics](#)

- [Statistical Abstract of the United States](#) Statistics compiled by various government agencies.
- [American FactFinder](#) Source for population, housing, economic and geographic U.S. Census data.

### Is your topic related to government, law or politics?

- [California Government](#)
- [California Laws, Courts](#)
- [State and Local Government \(all 50 U.S. states, county and city government\)](#)
- [United States Government-Executive Branch \(The President\)](#)
- [United States Government-Judicial Branch \(Supreme Court, federal courts, and state courts\)](#)
- [United States Government-Legislative Branch \(The Senate and House of Representatives\)](#)

### What do people think about controversial issues?

[Finding Public Opinion Polls](#)

### Make sure your source is full of CRAAP

[Evaluating Information – Applying the CRAAP Test](#)

