



Argumentative Essay Topics:

Social Concerns and Quality of Life Issues

The following topics are suitable for argumentative essay assignments about social issues. Suggested thesis statements and a list of web links to pertinent information are provided for each topic. Topics on this page include:

[Gay Marriages](#)
[Animal Rights](#)
[Gambling](#)
[Illegal Immigration](#)

Need more information? Try these links:

- [GCC library](#) (click on [Periodical Indexes](#) to search the electronic databases)
- [Public Agenda](#)
- [Rand](#)
- [American Civil Liberties Union](#)
- [Useful Web Sites and Search Engines](#)



Gay Marriage

Thesis Statements:

- Granting legal marriage rights to gays and lesbians would threaten the stability of the family, a pillar of our society.
- Granting legal marriage rights under the law must extend to gays and lesbians to ensure that all citizens enjoy full human rights.

Some of the issues in this argument:

Should society encourage traditional values and traditional forms of family life?

Should employee benefits be offered to people with domestic partners?

Should we tolerate discrimination against gays and lesbians in employment or housing?

Should our government enact legislation to strengthen and support traditional families -- like a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman?

Should we provide the same rights to gay and lesbian couples that are currently only afforded to heterosexual couples -- the right to marry, adopt and receive benefits?

Sources of Information:

In Favor of Gay Marriages

- [ACLU: Lesbian, Gay, Transgender Project](#)
- [Gay Marriage News](#)
- [Wedding Day](#) (Gay Marriage at Boston.com)
- [California Supreme Court overturns Gay Marriage Ban](#)
- [Human Rights Campaign](#)
- [Lambda Legal Defense](#)

Opposed to Gay Marriages

- [President Calls for Constitutional Amendment Protecting Marriage](#)
- [Eleven Arguments Against Same-Sex Marriage \(Part 1 of 5\)](#)
- [Gay Marriage: Why Would It Affect Me? Ten Arguments Against Same Sex Marriage](#)
- [Deathblow to Marriage by Stanley Kurtz](#)
- [STAYING 'TRUE TO THE RESEARCH' ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE AND PARENTING](#)
- [Is Marriage in Jeopardy?](#)

Comprehensive Websites

- [Public Agenda Issue: Gay Rights](#)
- [The Marriage Law Project](#)
- [Institute for the Study of Marriage, Law, and Culture](#)
- [NPR Social Issues](#) (audio)
- [Same Sex Marriages and Civil Unions](#)
- [Domestic Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages](#)
- [SoYouWanna Know about Gay Marriage?](#)
- [Google News Results for Gay Marriage](#)



Animal Rights

Thesis Statements:

- Animal testing is necessary to develop new medicines and advance scientific knowledge.
- Animal testing is unethical and should be outlawed.

Some of the issues in this argument:

What rights do animals possess?

What rights do humans have to use animals as they wish?

Can new medicines and vaccines be safely developed without animal testing?

Is it human nature to eat meat?

Do humans exploit animals when they keep them as pets and/or in zoos?

Sources of Information:

Supporting Animal Research

- [CARE Committee on Animal Research and Ethics](#) from APA
- [Foundation for Biomedical Research](#)
- [US Meat Animal Research Center](#)
- [Ethical Conduct in the Care and Use of Animals](#)
- [Institute for Laboratory Animal Research \(ILAR\)](#)
- [Agricultural Research Service](#) from US Dept of Agriculture
- [Americans for Medical Progress](#)
- [RDS Understanding Animal Research in Science](#)

Opposed to Animal Research

- [A Critical Look at Animal Experimentation](#)
- [Animal Experimentation/Animal Rights](#) (audio file from NPR)
- [FRAME \(Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments\)](#)
- [AFMA: Americans for Medical Advancement](#)
- [PCRM: Animal Experimentation Issues](#)
- [NAIA policy statement: Animal-based research](#)

Animal Rights (both sides of the issue)

- [Animal Rights Law](#) from Rutgers University Law School
- [The Moral Status of Animals](#)
- [REPORT TO CONGRESS ON THE EXTENT AND EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM ON ANIMAL ENTERPRISES](#)
- [Yahoo: Animal Rights>Animal Experimentation Links](#)
- [Ethical Issues in the Use of Animals in Research](#)



Gambling

Thesis Statements:

- The positive aspects of legalized gambling far outweigh the harmful side effects that occur.
- The harmful side effects of legalized gambling far outweigh any positive aspects.

Sources of Information:

- [American Gaming Association](#)
- [Gambler's Anonymous](#)
- [Gambling Impact and Behavior Study](#)
- [Pathological Gambling More Prevalent Among Youths Than Adults, Study Finds](#)
- [Gambling Studies](#)
- [Journal of Gambling Issues](#)
- [Gambling Impact and Behavior Study](#)
- [The Arizona Council on Compulsive Gambling](#)
- [Arizona Office of Problem Gambling](#)

Some of the issues in this argument:

What are the social and economic effects of legalized gambling on a community?
 What is the relationship between gambling and crime?
 Can the gambling industry regulate itself?

- [An Analysis of the Economic Impacts of Indian Gaming in the State of Arizona](#)
- [The Harrah's Corporation's Responsible Gaming Initiatives](#)
- [National Indian Gaming Association](#)
- [North American Gaming Regulators Association](#)
- [University of Nevada, Las Vegas - Gaming Institute](#)
- [Easy Money - PBS's Frontline Show on Gambling](#)
- [Gambling Law US](#)
- [The Gaming Collection](#) from UNLV Library
- [Institute for the Study of Gambling and Commercial Gaming](#)

Illegal Immigration**Thesis Statements:**

- Illegal immigration threatens life in the United States.
- The United States should make it easier for illegal immigrants to legally live and work here.

Some of the issues in this argument:

What are the social and economic effects of illegal immigration on a community?
 What is the relationship between illegal immigration and crime?

Sources of Information:

- [FAIR: Federation for American Immigration Reform](#)
- [Public Agenda Issues Guide: Immigration](#)
- [Cato Institute](#) (search for Immigration)
- [Illegal Immigration \(Center for Immigration Studies\)](#)
- [Immigration at ProCon.org](#)
- [Legal Immigration: Setting Priorities](#)
- [The Dark Side of Illegal Immigration](#)
- [Q & A: Illegal Immigrants and the US Economy](#)
- [U.S. Immigration: Fact, Fear and Fantasy](#)
- [Illegal Immigrants, the Immigration Debate Links from the Constitutional Rights Foundation](#)
- [The Illegal Immigrant Effect](#)
- [America's Immigration Quandary](#)
- [Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S.](#)
- [Report: Illegal immigrants cost state \\$1.4B in wages](#)

Maintained by: [Marla DeSoto](#)