

# Controversial Issues Research Tips

## Step #1: Find basic Information about your topic.

Check out specialty encyclopedias and the available databases (see suggestions below) to read general information and summaries on your topic. For example: [Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?](#)

## Step #2: Find in-depth information from books and materials in the library.

Use the Online Catalog to search for materials and use the ones suggested below. <http://hswildcats.org/library>

### Titles—all located in the Desk Reference Area

<i>Contemporary World Issues</i>	<i>Opposing Viewpoints</i>
<i>Information Plus</i>	<i>Pro/Con</i>
<i>Issues and Controversies on File – pamphlets</i>	<i>Social Issues Primary Sources</i>
<i>Library in a Book</i>	<i>Taking Sides 30 + volumes</i>

\*Citation information can be found via the On-Line Catalog <http://hswildcats.org/library>. Add the book title to “add to this list”, then click “in this list” (right-hand side); finally, click “Go” at the bottom of the page next to the citation tab.

## Step #3: Gale Virtual Reference Library = e-books


Login ID: wildcats

**Areas to Use:** Located in the **Gale Resource Center**. Simply conduct a “basic search” or search specific resources.

**Citation:** Information is at the end of the article.

## Step #4: Find more current information

Use the journal articles and materials from the school's databases. If you are accessing the databases from home you will need to use the username and passwords provided. <http://hswildcats.org/library>

Database	Login/ Password	Comments
<b>CQ Research</b>	Username: libertyville  Password: wildcats	International coverage of current topics in the news. Do a general search or browse Pro/Con Section (on the left-hand side) by topic.  <b>Citation:</b> Click on "Cite Now" tab then select MLA for complete citation.
<b>Ebsco Magazine, Newspaper, Health, Images, Bios, etc. Professional Library</b>	Login ID: libertyville  Password: wildcats	Click on "select all." Do a basic search but be sure to check the "full text" box.  <b>Citation:</b> Ignore the citation button-use the fourth icon that says "cite this article"  
<b>Ebsco Student Resource Center</b>	Login ID: libertyville  Password: wildcats	Click on the "Student Resource Center" and click on "Current Issues" on the left-hand side <b>or</b> generate a basic search but always click on the "full text" box.  <b>Citation:</b> Information is at the top and bottom of the article. The citation must be created.
<b>Gale Resource Center</b>	Login ID: wildcats	Use of the "Opposing Viewpoints" Many topics are already listed--for others do a basic search. Check out the tabs, like the one for websites, too.  <b>Citation:</b> Information is at the end of the article.
<b>Lexis/Nexis</b>	WebID: hslibrary	Click "News" then "General."  <b>Citation:</b> Information is at the top and bottom of the article and the citation

	Password: wildcats	must be created.
<b>Newsbank</b>	Username: libertyville  Password: wildcats	May click on the bold "Chicagoland Newspapers" at the top to search all the papers listed or select the one you prefer  <b>Citation:</b> Click on the "Bibliography Export" on the right-hand side and then select the "MLA Citations" button.
<b>SirS Online</b>	Customer #: libertyville  Password: wildcats	Has the top ten Pro/Con items on the side in addition to its research options  <b>Citation:</b> Click "Citation" on the right hand side.

## Step #5: Find information on the Internet

Use the internet wisely. Set up a good internet search when you use Google. Use a variety of words and wording. *Remember to use the "+" and "-" symbols to narrow down the search.* **Only use .com sites which have an author!**

*Should the drinking age be lowered to 18?*

**For Example:** lower drinking age to 18

"lower drinking age" 18 +facts -com

**Use different words to research**

"lower drinking age" 18 +statistics -com

"lower drinking age" 18 +studies -com

"lower drinking age" 18 +cons -com

"lower drinking age" 18 +pros -com

"lower drinking age" 18 +debate -com

If you need help narrowing your thesis, try the search engine, Vivisimo at <http://clusty.com/>. It clusters topics on the left-hand side that could help you focus your topic.

Because of the wide range of your topics, individual sites are not included. Feel free to see me for help gaining web sites on your topic.

### **Helpful Websites:**

#### **World Newspaper Sites:**

World Newspapers, Magazines, and News Sites in English

<http://www.world-newspapers.com/>

Internet Public Library--Newspapers

<http://www.ipl.org/div/news/>

Online Newspapers

<http://www.onlinenewspapers.com/>

WorldPress.org

<http://www.worldpress.org/gateway.htm>

#### **Current Events Web Pages:**

Google Scholar <http://scholar.google.com/>

Librarians Interne <http://lii.org/>

Complete Planet <http://www.completeplanet.com>

Freeality (select the search engines)

[http://www.freeality.com/international\\_search\\_engines.htm](http://www.freeality.com/international_search_engines.htm)

#### **Miscellaneous Web Pages:**

**ProCon.org** promotes controversial issues in a simple, nonpartisan pro-con format" <http://www.procon.org/>