

FrontPage

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Page history



Reading, Writing, Thinking...OH MY! Mrs. Sekulich, 8th grade

Research Information (Very Helpful and extra copies): [Outline format.doc](#) [6e Note sheet-LA 3ST\[1\].doc](#) [Research Paper dates Bub 2009.doc](#) [Research P Checklist new 20092010 red.doc](#) [citation maker mla.mht](#)

Argumentative Essay Topics: Constitutional Rights Issues

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

- [Gun Control](#)
- [The Death Penalty](#)
- [Electoral College System](#)

Need more information? Try these links:

- [Useful Web Sites and Search Engines](#)
- [GCC library](#) (click on [Periodical Indexes](#) to search the electronic databases)

Gun Control

Thesis Statements:

- Stricter handgun control laws and licensing are necessary to save lives.
- Americans have a constitutional right to own handguns and stricter laws and licensing will not effectively save lives.

Some of the issues in this argument:

- Would stricter gun control laws infringe upon people's right to own guns?
- Are current gun control laws enforceable?
- Are gun manufacturers doing all they should to manufacture safe weapons?
- Should stricter laws prohibit gun sales at gun shows without background checks?
- Should there be an age limit for owning a gun?

Sources of Information:

- [Second Amendment Foundation Online](#)
- [Can Gun Control Reduce Crime?](#)
- [GunCite: Gun Control and Second Amendment Issues](#)
- [Brady Campaign to Prevent Violence](#)
- [YOU HAVE THE RIGHT!](#)
- [NRA \(National Rifle Association\)](#)
- [NSSF \(National Shooting Sports Foundation\)](#)
- [Brady Law \(P.L. 103-159, Title I; 107 Stat. 1536\)](#)
- [The Court Considers Gun Control](#)
- [HandgunLaw.us](#)
- [Gun Control from Justfacts.com](#)
- [The Second Amendment Under Fire: The Uses of History and the Politics of Gun Control](#)
- [Suzanna-Gratia Hupp Statement before Congress regarding Gun Control \(video\)](#)
- [Gun Control Policy Issues](#)
- [Gun Control](#)
- [Gun Control is not Crime Control](#)
- [Taking On Gun Control](#)
- [Is gun ownership an individual right guaranteed by the Second Amendment?](#)
- [Hot Guns](#)
- [Day, Liebowitz and Pirrong: Guns make colleges safer](#)
- [More Guns, Less Crime in '09](#)
- [Guns and crime: Where are the new D.C. shootouts?](#)
- [Gun bans lead to increase in violent crime](#)
- [John Lott: More Guns, Not Less, Would Prevent Shooting Massacres](#)

The Death Penalty

Thesis Statements:

- The death penalty should be abolished.
- The death penalty should be administered for particularly heinous crimes.

Some of the issues in this argument:

- Is the death penalty an effective deterrent for heinous crimes?
- What are the economic ramifications of the death penalty?

Sources of Information:

Against the Death Penalty

- [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\) Death Penalty](#)
- [National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty](#)
- [Yahoo's Death Penalty: Opposing Views](#)
- [Supreme Court Declares Juvenile Death Penalty Unconstitutional](#)
- [Deterrence and the Death Penalty: The Views of the Experts](#)
- [Death Penalty from justicepolicy.com](#)

Is the death penalty the best protection from a murderer?
 Are methods of execution reliable and practical?
 Is justice for the victim achieved through the death penalty?

- [DETERRENCE AND THE DEATH PENALTY: A CRITICAL REVIEW OF NEW EVIDENCE](#)
- [Study: States can't afford death penalty](#)
- [Arizona Justice Project](#)

In Favor of the Death Penalty

- [Death Penalty links](#)
- [ProDeathPenalty.com](#) (in favor of the death penalty)
- [Yahoo's Death Penalty: Supporting Views](#)
- [DEATH PENALTY ARGUMENTS: Deterrent or Revenge \(Pros and Cons\)](#)
- [Capital Punishment --The Death Penalty: Support and Opposition](#)
- [Death Penalty--In Favor](#)

Informational Websites

- [Criminal Justice: Capital Punishment Focus](#)
- [Punishment and the Death Penalty](#) from [Ethics Matters](#)
- [Angel on Death Row](#) from PBS's *Frontline*
- [Death Penalty Information Center](#)
- [Focus on the Death Penalty: Index](#)
- [The Death Penalty - American attitudes - Brief Article - Statistical Data Included](#)
- [Deadly Decisions](#) (from American RadioWorks)
- [Death Penalty Policy Issues](#)
- [Facts about the Death Penalty](#)

The Electoral College System

Thesis Statements:

- The United States should support and retain the current Electoral College system of electing a President and Vice-President.
- The Electoral College system of electing a President and Vice-President needs to be replaced with a method that better represents the will of the American people.

Some of the issues in this argument:

Is the direct election of the U.S. President a dangerous option due to the possibility of majority fraud?

Does direct election makes minority rule even more likely than the present process.

Would any other method of election be an improvement?

What is the likelihood that the Electoral College will frustrate the popular will in the selection of a president and a vice president?

Sources of Information:

- [Electoral College](#) – from Grolier's Presents The American Presidency
- [PR Library: Readings in Proportional Representation](#)
- [Electoral College System](#) from About.com's U.S. Gov Info/Resources
- [FEDERALIST PAPERS by Alexander Hamilton; Federalist No. 68: The Mode of Electing the President](#)
- http://www.fec.gov/pdf/elec_coll.pdf
- [Direct Election Dangers](#)
- [The Electoral College: A Political Accident Waiting to Happen](#)
- [The US Electoral College Webzine](#)
- [The Electoral College](#)
- [The Electoral College: Pro and Con](#)
- [How the Electoral College Works](#)
- [The Electoral College: Then, Now, and Tomorrow](#)
- [Promoting Democracy in America Election of the President](#)
- [US National Archives and Records Administration](#)
- [The Center for Voting and Democracy](#)
- [Proposals for Electoral College Reform](#) 22314
- [Proposals for Electoral College Reform](#) 22316
- [Grolier Encyclopedia on the American Presidency](#)
- [Origins of the Electoral College](#)



Writers' Workshop

...for all your writing needs!

8th Grade Writers,

I've added a new section to my website that will be dedicated to your Writing Workshop. Here you will find ideas for writing, writing tips, information that adds to what I teach in class, and authentic opportunities to have your writing published. Check here frequently! I will add sites as I find them! If you have any website suggestions, please let me know. I will review them and post them for your classmates!

**RELATED LINKS**[Writers' Block](#)

Check this out! This is an online blog for teens about novel writing. I know several of you are attempting novels at home, and you are bringing pieces in to work on during Writing Workshop. This site gives you tips for those dreaded writers' block moments.

[Teen Ink](#)

Teen Ink offer teenagers the opportunity to publish their creative work and opinions on the issues that affect their lives - everything from love and family to teen smoking and community service. Hundreds of thousands of students have submitted their work to us and we have published more than 25,000 teens since 1989.

[Merlyn's Pen](#)

Yet another place to publish your writing. Check it out!

[Writing Tips](#)

This website offers tips on how to get started with your writing and also tips on how to get your writing published.

[Writing Help](#)

This website is directed for grades 1-6, but it can be EXTREMELY helpful for you, too! It provides information about several different types of writing such as the narrative, poetry, persuasion, and informational writing. Then it gives examples of each one for grades 1-6. It is easy to navigate, interactive, and offers different organizers to help you with your writing.

[Verla Volante](#)

Verla is a character from Pat Murphy's book The Wild Girls. She is an extraordinary writing teacher who helps two young girls discover not only who they are but who they are as writers. This website offers writing advice from Verla -- it is certainly worth checking out! Fictional as she may be, I learned some great stuff from Verla. I think you might, too!

GAMES[FrontPage](#)

<http://www.quia.com/rr/663649.html>

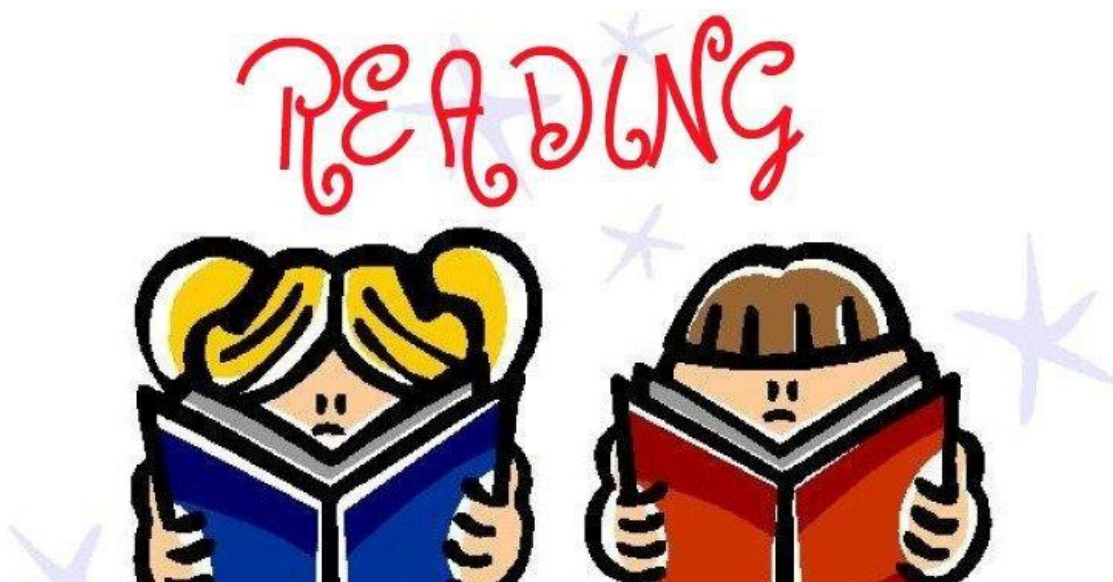
[jeopardy for review.ppt](#)

Here is your extra-credit option.
[Reading Lifeline Assignment Sheet.doc](#)

RESOURCES FOR CLASS

[FigurativeLanguage.ppt](#)

<http://www.quia.com/rr/663649.html>





http://www.bismarck.k12.mo.us/English/skinner/Classes/7th.html#STORY_ELEMENTS

Grammar Help

[Link - description](#)

Grammar Girl

Grammar Girl contains a list of podcasts about different grammar topics. Choose a topic in which you are interested, click PLAY, and listen! Grammar Girl helps with run-on sentences, good vs. well, and tips on proofreading.

Comments (7)



ahill009780 said
at 10:15 am on May 15, 2010

/



Janine Sekulich said
at 7:40 am on Nov 15, 2010

wow



Janine Sekulich said
at 2:48 pm on Nov 17, 2010

Sami Marlowe



Emily Rust said
at 4:00 pm on Dec 7, 2010

Your webstie is very helpfull!



Gabby Goff said
at 7:14 pm on Dec 11, 2010

this website is really great!!!



drummermann15@... said
at 9:28 pm on Dec 16, 2010

i really like the website it really helped me create a good blabberize!



liam said
at 8:50 pm on Jan 18, 2011

This site was very helpful.

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