

# Controversial Issues Pathfinder

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The information is meant to guide research for the NFHS senior project on controversial issues. These resources can give you ideas of topics and help you locate information on what public policies are in place as well as why other individuals or groups feel those policies should or should not be in place. *(Don't forget to keep track of where all your information is coming from!)*

## Web sites:

The **American Civil Liberties Union** is a nonprofit and nonpartisan group of civil liberties activists fighting against what they classify as injustices. For a look at some of the issues they are rallying behind check out their site at <http://www.aclu.org/> but be aware that they generally only present one side of a topic.

The **U.S. Department of State** has a web site dedicated to “issues and press” which can be accessed at <http://www.state.gov/issuesandpress/>. It offers facts and information about high-interest official government policies.

**Public Agenda** describes itself as a “nonpartisan opinion research and civic engagement organization.” The web site offers multiple perspectives on controversial issues and can be found at <http://www.publicagenda.org/>.

**ProCon.org** is a nonpartisan, nonprofit charity intended to present both sides of controversial issues. As with all websites, pay attention to the sources where the material originally came from and look for links to the primary source. Check out the site at <http://www.procon.org/>.

Also, search the **government** sites using detailed search terms for more information:

United States <http://www.usa.gov/>

New York <http://www.state.ny.us/>

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## Databases:

The databases listed below can be used to search through multiple newspapers, magazines, and journals at once. Many have special sections dedicated specifically to controversial issues.

- In **Proquest** click on the “Topics” tab at the top and enter key words for search term suggestions.
- The **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** covers controversial social issues by providing pro and con views, reference articles for context, and many primary source documents.
- In **ABC-CLIO** select the “Issues” database and then “Explore an Issue” for a list of choices. Select a topic for an overview, facts, timeline, current views, and more.
- In **ABC-CLIO History Reference** select a category from the “Issues” section to access reference handbooks on a variety of topics.
- In **Ebscohost** click on “Topic Search” and select from the current event or topic lists.

## Books:

Check for books by searching the library catalog for your topic or for series of books dedicated to different controversial issues. They are shelved according to topic so search the library catalog for your topic keyword and any of these titles:

- *At Issues Series*
- *Contemporary Issues Companion*
- *Current Controversies*

Don't forget the public library as an additional resource...search the catalog at <http://www.nioga.org/>.

