

Try the following links to explore possible topics and positions. Warning: some of the topics listed are overused or too controversial and should be avoided (see Essay #5 instructions for examples of topics to avoid).

<http://www.procon.org/>

This site provides pros and cons on diverse controversial topics with facts and quotations from thousands of experts. It's a great starting point for choosing a possible topic.

<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/hot/supersites.shtml>

This site provides resources on many controversial topics of current interest. Another great starting point for topic exploration.

### **Controversial Topics for Argument**

- Should herbal medications be controlled by the government?
- Should helmets be required on ski hills?
- Should we be drilling for oil in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge?
- Is the chemical ripening of fruits and vegetables safe?
- Should forest fires be allowed to burn?
- Should there be stricter punishment for poaching?
- Should drug testing for college sports be mandatory?
- Should mandatory drug testing for any job be allowed?
- Should gun owners be required to have a permit?
- Do pesticides compromise the nutritional value of fruits and vegetables we consume?
- Should parents who have their children in foster care because of neglect be allowed a certain number of years to change before their children are put up for adoption?
- Should spanking be considered child abuse?
- Should parents of obese children be charged with child abuse or neglect?
- Are drugs the best solution for children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder?
- Should a parent lose his/her drivers license for non-payment of child support?
- What radical changes are needed to save the Social Security System?
- Should Idaho's daycare centers be licensed?
- Is it a good idea for the FBI to create a DNA database with information gathered from suspected criminals and crime scenes throughout the country?
- Should the First Amendment protect the speech/press of hate groups?

- Why are surgeons going back to using leeches? Is it safe?
- Can magnets really reduce pain and cure certain ailments?
- Are electromagnetic fields emanating from cell phones dangerous to humans?
- Is the current system for receiving a donor organ for implantation fair?
- Should smoking be totally banned on NIC's campus?
- Is getting a swine flu shot a good idea for most people?
- Should creationism or intelligent design be taught in schools along with evolution?
- Should physician-assisted suicide be legal in Idaho?