

WRITING TECHNIQUES - Argumentative Essay

Step 1...Define the question, choose a topic.

Step 2...Find both sides of the question.

Step 3...Choose a side.

Step 4...Find evidence and arguments to support your conclusions.

Step 5...Find evidence and arguments that disagree with your conclusions and answer them.

Step 6..Put it all together with clear reasoning and a call to action.

For help writing an argumentative paper, see the following websites:

[How to Write a Thesis Statement](#)

[How to Write Argumentative Essays](#)

Citing Sources - [RHS English Dept. Guidelines](#) -OR- [Documenting Sources Style Guide](#) (choose MLA List of Works Cited)

BOOK RESOURCES



The Royal High Library has many books that can help you research controversial topics.



On the computer desktop screen, select  icon for the library book catalog. Type in your topic or keyword to find a list of books. TIP: Click the "Call Number" box to put the books in Dewey Decimal order.

Many of the books listed are part of book series such as *Opposing Viewpoints*, *At Issue*, *Current Controversies*, and *Issues in Focus*. For example, if you type in the keywords "opposing viewpoints" you will find almost 200 books!

You should use these books in addition to the databases to complete your research.

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TOPICS AND ELECTRONIC RESOURCES



[Research Questions](#) (each topic provides questions to be answered as you conduct research)

1. Use the library's database: "[Opposing Viewpoints](#)" for book, magazine, newspaper info
See the databases's Research Guide at the top of the main page for very useful information on how to use their sources and think about them critically.
2. When using a search engine such as [Google](#), use the Advanced Search feature to request websites by domain: .gov or .edu or
3. [Evaluate Each Web Site](#) - does the site pass or fail?

Sites with Topic Lists that Link to Websites:

***[Librarians' Internet Index](#) (social issues subject portal of links to organizations and statistics)

***[Homework Center: Social Issues](#) (Public library page that provides pro/con links to organizations)

***[Internet Public Library \(IPL\): Social Issues and Social Welfare](#)(includes links to organizations)

***[Public Agenda](#)(a nonpartisan issues-oriented Think Tank that provides facts and figures, **different perspectives and analysis** of public attitudes - scroll down to "Issue Guides")

***[SpeakOut.com](#) (non-partisan articles on a wide variety of topics showcasing leading research, **with opinions** and events shaping public policy)

*****ProCon.org** (s a nonpartisan, nonprofit, public charity whose mission is "*Promoting education, critical thinking, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan primarily pro-con format.*") - **provides pro/con responses to issues - be sure to see their "How to Cite link at bottom of page**

[International Topics and Issues](#) - U.S. Dept of State site about numerous issues

[Politics 1 - Political Issues and Debates](#) (Nonpartisan site that links to pro/con organizations and Think Tanks)

College and University "Hot Topics" Sites with Links to Organizations:
[Hot Topics - Links to government documents, statistics, etc.](#) (U. Louisville)

[Controversial Issues](#) (Santa Ana College links to organizations)

[Current Topics for Research](#) (Kingswood College)

[Subject Guide for Hot Topics](#) (SDSU)

[Hot Paper Topics](#) (St. Ambrose College link to views on both sides of issues)

2008-2009 National Debate Topic

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase alternative energy incentives in the United States.