



>>> rollover on the links above to activate the sub menus >>>

[Bb](#) | [Email](#) | [SIS](#) | [LRC](#)

Learning Resources Centers

- >> [Ask A Librarian](#)
- >> [How do I ..?](#)
- >> [Library Catalogs](#)
- >> [Indexes & Databases](#)
- >> [Reference](#)
- >> [Subject Guides](#)
 - > [Art Resources \(VAC\)](#)
 - > [Controversial Topics](#)
 - > [Government Sources](#)
 - > [Literature](#)
 - > [Statistics](#)
 - > [Writing assignments & Citations](#)
- >> [Internet Search Engines](#)
- >> [Services & Policies](#)
- >> [Instruction & Handouts](#)
- >> [Administration](#)

>>

Controversial Topics Subject Guide LRC@TCC

Scope: Printed and online sources for argumentative papers and debating.



[Controversial Topics Handout](#)

Periodical and Newspaper articles



Where to begin? Try our general

- **Congressional Digest** Each issue is devoted to one topic with pro/con opinions from congressional members. (VB, PO, CH campuses) Indexed: [Expanded Academic ASAP](#) and an annual cumulative index in the December issue.
- **CQ Researcher** Each issue focuses on a specific topic presenting alternative views and a bibliography. Indexed: [Expanded Academic ASAP](#) and an annual cumulative index in the bound volume. This title is also available on our shelves.
- **Issues and Controversies on File** Articles provide the history or development of an issue, a current overview, varying opinions, a prediction of future developments, and a short bibliography. Self-indexed. Annual cumulative index in bound volume (VB Campus). This title is also available on our shelves.
- **Opposing Viewpoints** Access viewpoint articles, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, links to web sites, and full-text magazine and newspaper articles. Examples: Adoption, America's prisons, Censorship, Death penalty, Euthanasia. This title is also available on our shelves.



What do the numbers say? Use our [public opinion](#) subject guide.

- [Books](#)
- [Periodicals](#)
- [Internet Sites](#)

Books:

- **Gale Virtual Reference Library (r)**
- **Contemporary World Issues** (call numbers vary) Each book deals with a single topic and contains a chronology, biographies, relevant statistics, a directory of organizations and a bibliography. Not in a pro/con format, but an excellent source of information on controversial topics. Examples: Animal rights, Homelessness, Gambling, Gay and Lesbian Rights, Ozone, Rape, Sports Ethics.
- **Current Controversies** (call numbers vary) Excerpts from articles, newspapers and books are used to present authoritative opinions on issues of national and international interest in a pro/con format. A short bibliography and a list of organizations are included. Examples: AIDS, Alcoholism, Drug Trafficking, Energy, Free Speech, Gun Control, Hate Crimes, Pollution, Sexual Harassment, Women in the Military, Violence Against Women.
- **Opposing Viewpoints** (call numbers vary) Each title explores many aspects of a broad issue using expert opinions from contemporary and historical authors in a pro/con format. Contains bibliographies, list of relevant organizations, glossaries, cartoons and chronologies. Examples: Adoption, America's prisons, Censorship, Death penalty, Euthanasia.
- **Reference Shelf** (call numbers vary) Each book excerpts or reprints important articles on a contemporary social issue. Included are background information, discussions from various points of view, and a bibliography. Examples: Banking, Greenhouse Effect, English-Official Language, Cults, Suicide, United Nations.
- **Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues** (call numbers vary) Adjacent pro and con arguments excerpted from journal articles and books are written by experts and focus

on diverse topics surrounding a broad issue area. Examples: Israel, Bioethical Issues, American History, Mass Media, Race and Ethnicity, Psychological Issues.



Internet resources:

- [Public Agenda Online](#) Public debates on hot topics offering various views, pro and con.
- [Hot Topics Supersites](#) a directory of resources for controversial topics of current interest.
- [ProCon.org](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation whose purpose is to inform the public about controversial issues using facts, news, and hundreds of diverse opinions in a pro-con format.
- [Documents in the News: Current Events Research](#) identifies issues about government making news headlines and web sources with additional information.

top

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