

## General Reference Sources

General and interdisciplinary reference sources, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc.

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**Pro/Con Issues** | [Comments \(0\)](#) | [Print/Mobile Page](#) | Search | This Guide 6 | Go

**Issues on the Web**

This guide will lead you to analytical articles and reports written by experts on pro/con issues of the day. These reports often provide links to news, analysis, commentary, and primary source materials that put the facts in context. Listed below are some of the best online pro/con resources.

- Deatabase**  
Database of arguments for and against hundreds of debating topics. Includes background summaries, links to websites of interest and recommended books.
- ProCon.org**  
Pros and cons of controversial issues. Provides arguments for and against topics such as medical marijuana, euthanasia, prostitution, and more.
- Public Agenda - Issue Guides**  
Provides detailed overviews, discussion, facts and figures on major U.S pro/con issues such as abortion, economy, crime, education, environment, federal budget, and gay rights.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

**CQ Electronic Library**

The **CQ Electronic Library** is highly recommended when seeking original, background information and analysis on pro/con issues in the news.

**CQ Researcher** reports cover U.S. related political and social issues, with regular reports on topics in health, international affairs, education, the environment, technology and the U.S. economy.

**CQ Global Researcher** reports cover global affairs from an international perspective.

Both products provide introductory overview; background and assessment of the current situation; pro/con statements from representatives of opposing positions; chronology on the topic, followed by short features for extensive context. Also included at the end of each report is an extensive bibliography.


- [Congressional Quarterly Researcher](#)
- [Congressional Quarterly Global Researcher](#)

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**CRS Reports**

The **Congressional Research Service (CRS)** is the non-partisan public policy research arm of the United States Congress. CRS experts prepare reports to assist Congressmen throughout the legislative process providing background information and data on public policy issues. They provide research in the following main areas:

- American Law
- Domestic Social Policy
- Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade
- Government and Finance
- Resources, Science and Industry



Other areas of research include economics, public administration, education, health care, immigration, energy, environmental protection, and science and technology.

Many CRS reports are updated at varying intervals, so it is always important to note the exact date of issuance rather than just the title and the year of publication. The following resources provide access to select CRS documents.

- Congressional Lexis -Nexis**  
LexisNexis® Congressional provides access to CRS reports from 1916-present. Go to the Advanced Search Lexis also provides access to memos and witness submitted statements authored by CRS staff.
- OpenCRS**  
Open CRS provides citizens access to CRS Reports already in the public domain and encourages Congress to provide public access to all CRS Reports.

[Comments \(0\)](#)

**Issue Books in the Library**

- Contemporary Political and Social issues**  
Series of books on issues of contemporary importance in American politics.
- Current Controversies**  
Composed of a wide spectrum of primary sources written by many of the foremost authorities in their respective fields.

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