



Writing Argumentative Essays

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Recommended Databases

- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (Gale)**

Opposing Viewpoints is based on the respected print series, this is a virtual toolbox of major resources. Can also be used to find scholarly articles and identify authoritative websites
- CQ Researcher**

CQ Researcher explores topics in depth. Use "Issue Tracker" to view chronological alphabetical lists of issues.
- Academic Search Premier**

Search Vital Speeches of the Day (1934 - present) for vital speeches on your topic. Sample search: JN "Vital Speeches of the Day" AND marriage
- Points of View**

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PublicAgenda.org

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Is something missing?

Have you found a helpful Website or source that you want to share with others? Send it to me and I'll post it here!

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Writing Your Argumentative Essay

- The OWL at Purdue (Online Writing Lab)**

What is an argumentative essay and how do you write one?
- UNC Writing Center Handout**

What is an argument and why do you need one in most of your academic essays?
- Paradigm Online Writing Assistant**

Writing Argumentative Essays - step by step with helpful activities and examples.

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Recommended Websites

- Gallup's A-Z trends**

Explore Gallup poll topics in one convenient place. Questions are grouped by topic/trend.
- ProCon.org: Pros and Cons of Controversial Issues**

"ProCon.org is an independent, nonpartisan, 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity. We promote critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting research on controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format. Our websites are free, unbiased, and updated periodically."
- PublicAgenda.org**

"Public Agenda is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to strengthen our democracy's capacity to tackle tough issues. We want to ensure the public's views are represented in decision-making and that citizens have the tools and information they need to grapple with the critical challenges of the day. We conduct public opinion research, we run public engagement programs around the country, and we run this Web site to give both citizens and leaders the information they need to know."
- NCSL.org: National Conference of State Legislatures**

"The National Conference of State Legislatures is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories. NCSL provides research, technical assistance and opportunities for policymakers to exchange ideas on the most pressing state issues."
- New York Times Room for Debate**

In Room for Debate, The New York Times invites knowledgeable outside contributors to discuss news events and other timely issues.

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How to find editorials

Editorials offer reasoned opinions on current controversial topics. You can search Academic Search Premier, ProQuest, and LexisNexis for editorials.

- Academic Search Premier**

Sample search:
Editorial (Subject terms) and "your search topic" (select a field - optional)
- LexisNexis Academic All News**

Search for "your search topic" in Subject Terms;
Specify Date: Previous 3 months;
By Type: US Newspapers & wires
Article Type: Editorials and Opinions
Search
- Proquest News**

Search for "your search topic" as Subject Heading (All)
Limit to full text and date range: last 3 months
Document type: clear all and select editorial
Language: clear all and select English

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Reference Librarian

Gwen Smith

Contact Info:
Office hours (at Ref Desk)
Mondays 9-6
Thursdays 9-8
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Book spotlight: The Debatabase Book

The Debatabase Book: A Must-have Guide for Successful Debate - International Debate Education Association
Call Number: EBOOK
ISBN: 9781932716276
Covers over 125 topics of interest to today's debaters.

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ProCon.org

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