

Controversial Topic Research

As you begin researching your controversial topic of choice, be mindful of the valuable resources available via [Pioneer Library](#), Utah's online library. On Pioneer, the SIRS Knowledge Source should prove especially helpful. (Note that you can access Pioneer Library from home if you have the following information: login name: *pioneer* and password: *look*.)

In addition to Pioneer Library, you may also want to find relevant websites that have pertinent information for your research. If you go this route, keep in mind issues of [website credibility](#) that we have discussed in class.

Also, immediately below is a list of Internet sites, which you might find helpful, that provide links and information relevant to a variety of controversial issues. As you find your required sources for your [annotated bibliography](#) (which requires five sources), steer clear of [using Wikipedia as an academic source](#). Also, make sure to use [Citation Machine](#) to help format your MLA citations correctly, and once your citations are formatted, remember to list them in alphabetical order by virtue of the first key word of the citation. Finally, remember to title your annotated bibliography and align the margins on the left correctly (i.e., the first line of the citation is left aligned and all subsequent lines of the citation and annotation are indented five spaces).



- [International Debate Education Association Database](#)
- [ProCon.org](#)
- [Public Agenda](#)
- [Argumentative Essay Topics](#)
- [Yahoo's Links to Controversial Issues & Research Topics](#)
- [Google's Issues](#)
- [O'Keefe Library: Hot Paper Topics](#)
- [Schoolwork Ugh!: Hot Topics and Issues](#)
- [Multnomah County Library: Social Issues](#)
- [On the Issues](#)
- [Online News Hour Links](#)
- [Mesa Library: A Sampling of Resources for "Controversial Issues" Research](#)
- [Davis High School Media Center: Current Issues](#)
- [Global Issues](#)

Possible Topics for Argumentation (A Working List)

Airline Industry

- [Arming Pilots](#)
- [Pilot Fatigue](#)
- [Mandatory Pilot Retirement](#)
- [Passenger Rights](#)
- [Racial Profiling](#)

Agriculture

- [Factory Farming](#)
- [Farm Subsidies](#)
- [Organic Farming](#)
- [Genetically Modified Food](#)
- [Irradiated Food](#)

- Food from Cloned Animals
- Herbicides/Insecticides

American History

- Columbus: Hero or Villain?
- Dropping the Bomb

Architecture & Construction

- Building in Flood Plain
- Soil Contamination
- Skyscrapers
- Sustainable Architecture
- Eminent Domain
- Reconstruction in Iraq
- Feng Shui
- Gender Discrimination

Art and Communciations

- Funding for the NEA, NEH
- Art in Public Schools
- Art vs. Obscenity
- Censorship
- Cultural Treasures
- Child Performers
- Flag Burning
- Movie Rating System
- Hollywood (Negative Influence?)
- TV Sex/Violence
- Violent Video Games
- V-chip
- Clear Channel

Automotive

- Mandatory Seatbelt Laws
- Anti-SUV Movement
- Domestic Oil Drilling
- Gas Price Gouging
- Cell Phones
- Hydrogen-Based Vehicles
- Natural Gas Vehicles
- Diesel vs. Supercharger
- Speed Cameras
- American Auto Industry Bailout

Beauty

- Diets (Atkins, Vegan, etc.)
- Breast Implants
- Cosmetic Surgery
- Nutritional Supplements
- Animal Research for Cosmetics

- Cosmetic Tattooing
- Beauty Contests
- Tanning Salons

Business

- Affirmative Action
- Minimum Wage
- Flat Tax
- Microeconomics
- Privatization of Social Security
- Privacy in the Workplace
- Drug Testing
- Outsourcing
- Child Labor
- Dollarization
- Debt Forgiveness
- Free Trade
- Wal-Mart
- NAFTA
- Compulsory HIV Disclosure
- Lottery

Censorship

- School Curriculum
- School Newspapers
- Music Lyrics
- Flag Burning
- Internet Filtering in Libraries
- Hate Speech
- Harry Potter
- Confederate Flag

Computer

- Internet Censorship
- Internet Taxation
- Encryption
- Cybercrime and Piracy
- Digital Divide
- Intellectual Property and Piracy
- Microsoft Monopoly
- File Sharing
- Opensource Software
- Violent Video Games
- Spam Regulation

Crime/Legal

- Death Penalty
- Prisoners Rights
- Boot Camps

- Gun Control
- Racial Profiling
- Legalizing Drugs
- Three Strikes
- Plea Bargaining
- Insanity Plea
- Jury System
- Attorney-Client Privilege
- Cameras in Courtrooms
- DNA Database
- Double Jeopardy
- Torte Reform
- Torturing
- Internment
- Patriot Act
- Cameras In Courtroom
- Televising Executions
- Parental Responsibility for Minor Crimes

Education

- Vouchers/Tax Credits
- Vending Machines
- High Stakes Tests
- Block Schedule
- Homework
- Grading
- Service-Learning Requirements
- Charters
- Merit Pay
- Funding
- Single-Gender Classes
- Achievement-Level Tracking
- Home Schooling
- Digital Divide
- Corporal Punishment/Spanking
- School Prayer
- Student Drug Testing
- Uniforms
- Mainstreaming
- Whole Language/Phonics
- Technology
- Sex Education
- Bilingualism
- Creationism/Intelligent Design
- Mandatory Phys. Ed.
- NCLB

- Academic Pre-School
- Beefed Up Grad. Requirements
- Small Learning Communities
- Advisories

Environment

- Global Warming
- Species Preservation
- Wolves in Yellowstone
- Antarctic Exploration
- Draining Lake Powell
- Dams
- Zoos/Aquaria
- Nuclear Waste Disposal
- Nuclear Power
- Forest Service Fire Policy
- Open Space vs. Development
- Water Rights
- Eco-Terrorism
- Anti-SUV Movement
- Divine Strake
- Banning Plastic Bags

Family

- Arranged marriages
- Spanking
- Working mothers
- Parental responsibility
- Polygamy
- Gay Marriage
- Mandatory Divorce Counseling
- Inter-Racial Adoption
- Gay Adoption

Media

- Violence in the Media
- Media and Body Image
- Advertising to Children
- Media Bias
- Clear Channel
- V-Chip
- Advertising/Journalism
- TV (Negative Influence)

Medicine/Life Science

- Euthanasia
- Physician-Assisted Suicide
- Cloning
- Stem-Cell Research

- Genetic Testing
- Genetic Engineering
- Gene Patenting
- Abortion*
- Surrogate
- Cell Phones/Cancer
- Cochlear Implants
- Irradiated Food
- Animal Testing
- Advertising Pharmaceuticals
- Pharmaceutical Profits
- Drug Patent Laws
- Drug Importations
- Zoos
- Xenotransplantation
- Organ Donations
- Organ
- Homeopathic Remedies
- Health Care Reform
- Immunizations
- Fluoridation
- Wisdom Teeth Removal
- Chewing Gum
- AIDS Drugs for Developing Countries
- Compulsory SARS screening
- Gastric Bypass

Military

- Gays in Military
- Women in Combat
- Reinstating Draft
- Stop Loss
- War Crimes
- Pre-Emptive Action
- Missile Defense System
- War in Iraq
- Military Tribunals
- Torture/Prisoner Abuse
- Recruitment Tactics
- Veteran Benefits

Music

- Christian Songs in Public Schools
- Music in Public Education
- Napster/MP3
- Rap Music and Violence
- Warning Labels

Politics/Government

- Term Limits
- Campaign Finance Reform
- Electoral College
- Immigration Reform
- Patriot Act
- English as Official Language
- Invasion of Afghanistan
- Invasion of Iraq
- Withdrawal from Iraq
- Compulsory Voting
- Foreign-Born President
- Negative Political Advertising
- Capitalism vs. Socialism
- United Nations
- Lottery
- FDA Reform
- Mandatory National Service

Psychology

- Anti-depressants
- ESP
- Academic Preschool
- Psychotherapy
- Insanity Plea
- Involuntary Commitment
- Involuntary Medicating

Religion

- School Prayer
- Removing God from Pledge
- Islamic Values
- Christian Lyrics in Public School
- Ten Commandments Display
- Muslim Head Covering

Science

- Creationism vs. Evolution
- Cold Fusion
- Nuclear Power
- NASA Funding
- Space Exploration
- Manned Spacecraft
- Life on Mars
- Extraterrestrial Life
- Artificial Intelligence

Sports

- Title IX

- Prop 48
- Sports Supplements
- BCS
- High School to Pros
- Removing Sports from Public Ed.
- \$ for College Athletes
- Equal Prize \$
- High School Sports
- Boxing Abolition
- Rodeos and Animal Cruelty
- Mascot Sensitivity
- Olympics

Author: Jill Haslam - **Email** jhaslam@dsdmail.net

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