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# Argumentative Essay Pathfinder

## Subscription Databases:

### Opposing Viewpoints:

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/west84687>

(Passwords required for home and school access; See Ms. Hamrick.)

“Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center is a one-stop source for information on today's hottest social issues. OVRC features viewpoint articles, topic overviews, full-text magazine and newspaper articles, primary source documents, statistics, images and podcasts, and links to Websites.” (Description from publisher.)

### SIRS:

(Access through [www.westervillelibrary.org](http://www.westervillelibrary.org) .)

- Select “Databases Sorted by Subject”
- Click “Reference and Research.”
- Scroll down to SIRS.
- Select the “Leading Issues” button at the bottom left of your screen.
- There is an enormous list of controversial topics, along with the “Top 10 Pro/Con” topics for study.
- Select your topic. You can click on the “Topic Overview” tab, a “Pro/Con” tab for a concise review of major positions about that topic, or link to newspaper and magazine articles, government documents, and pre-selected web sites.

## Free-Access Web Sites:

<http://www.procon.org/> Promoting informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a simple, nonpartisan pro-con format.

“ProCon.org is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, 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.” (Description from website.)

<http://www.idebate.org/debatabase/>

“Debatabase is the world's most useful resource for student debaters. Inside you will find arguments for and against hundreds of debating topics, written by expert debaters, judges and coaches. Also included are background summaries, links to websites of interest and recommended books, example motions and user comments.” (Description from website.)

## Books:

In addition to the many books on individual controversial topics that can be found in the school library by doing a keyword search in the catalog, the following books are highly recommended because they are well-written and provide comprehensive information:

Series Title: **Pro/con.**

Call Number: 361.1 PRO

Publisher: Danbury, CT : Grolier Educational,

Publication Date: 2004.

Summary: Contains a series of questions or dilemmas on social issues, analyzed in essay form, presenting opinions on both sides of the debate.

Series Title: **Current issues.**

Call Number: R 306 CUR

Publisher: New York : Macmillan Reference USA ;

Publication Date: c2003.

Summary: Contains articles that provide information on a variety of issues in history, government, sociology, economics, Earth science, environmental studies, and health, each with an overview, background information, different viewpoints, and definitions of difficult words. Arranged alphabetically.

Series Title: **At Issue**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “At Issue” to get a complete list of books in this series.

Series Title: **Contemporary Issues Companion**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “Contemporary Issues Companion” to get a complete list of books in this series.

Series Title: **Opposing Viewpoints**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “Opposing Viewpoints” to get a complete list of books in this series.

Series Title: **Current Controversies**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “Current Controversies” to get a complete list of books in this series.

Series Title: **Taking Sides**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “Taking Sides” to get a complete list of books in this series.

Series Title: **Point / Counterpoint**

Call Number: varies. Do a keyword search in the catalog for “POINT-COUNTERP” to get a complete list of books in this series.

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