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 Communications
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 Tatooing
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
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

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