Pro & Con: How to Find Information about Current Problems

This handout introduces library sources to help you understand controversial issues and develop persuasive arguments and essays.

Electronic resources are available off-campus to registered students. Ask the reference librarian for assistance.

CQ Researcher
Weekly publication providing comprehensive, balanced coverage of current topics in the news. A special feature includes knowledgeable experts presenting opposing points of view. Available electronically from the library's web page and in print in the reference collection (REF H 35 .E35).

EBSCOhost Databases
Multi-disciplinary databases that provide access to full text articles and peer reviewed titles. Cover many subject areas and a broad range of disciplines. A partial list of databases include Academic Search Complete, MasterFILE Complete, CINAHL, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Environment Complete, Health Source, MEDLINE, Political Science Complete, and Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context
Viewpoint articles on subjects in the news and controversial issues are featured. Full-text magazine articles, scholarly journal articles, newspaper articles, primary source documents, statistics, images, podcasts, and links to websites are available from this database.

Points of View Reference Center
Provides resources that present multiple sides of an issue. Includes many topics, each with an overview (objective background/description), point (argument) and counterpoint (opposing argument). Each topic also includes a Guide to Critical Analysis to help students evaluate controversial topics. Guides to help students write research papers and debate strategies to argue a topic are available.

ProQuest National Newspapers

Online Catalog
Use to find books and media in the Hartnell College Library. Available from the library's web page. Search by subject, keyword, title, author, and more.
**E-Books**

E-Books are electronic versions of printed books. Not all e-Books can be accessed from the Online Catalog. Go to Research Resources to access all additional eBooks.

**Books Relating to Current Controversial Topics**

Students frequently write research papers on controversial topics such as abortion, animal rights, bilingual education, capital punishment, censorship, euthanasia, gun control, homelessness, etc. Series that present various viewpoints on these controversial subjects are: *Information Plus* (current editions shelved at the Reference Desk) *Current Controversies, Opposing Viewpoints, Contemporary Issues, Contemporary World Issues*, and *Ideas in Conflict*. To search for books in these series, use the "advanced search" tab in the online catalog. Select "series" from the drop down menu.

**Interlibrary Loan**

When you cannot find a book or article at Hartnell or any local library, ask the Reference Librarian about our Interlibrary Loan (ILL) service. Through this service Hartnell borrows materials from owning libraries. Allow at least three weeks for ILL.

**Related Web Sites:**

*Purdue University, Writing Lab, Argumentative Essays*  
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owllresource/685/051


*Yahoo! Directory, Society and Culture, Issues and Causes*  
An Internet directory and links to sites categorized by topic and location.  
https://dir.yahoo.com/society_and_culture/issues_and-causes/