



SIRS Issues Researcher **Teaching & Learning Solution for School Leaders**

- Product Description:** SIRS Issues Researcher Issues is an editorially-created library national and global issues-focused activity resource, as well as a general reference resource for teaching and learning.
- Curriculum Level:** High schools, and upper middle/junior high schools
- Resource Overview:** SIRS Issues Researcher provides both [editor-selected](#) across-the-curriculum print and multimedia resources and complete Pro/Con activity modules for more than **300 real-world issues**. Each Issues module integrates a consistent **5-step process** that ensures that students address essential questions to develop 21st Century critical thinking and problem solving skills. The general reference resources include tens of thousands of **editor-selected full-text articles**, maps, photos, and websites to ensure that students can find relevant and authoritative learning resources quickly and easily. This saves time by decreasing surfing and accessing inappropriate material resulting. The result is more time for analysis, synthesis, and presentation.
- A variety of student presentation models are one click away to help students differentiate how they demonstrate what they have learned. Correlation to 21st Century Partnership, ISTE, AASL, and A variety of search types may also include WebSelect websites in the Results List. All articles and Websites are editorially-selected for their value in supporting **curriculum, state standards**, credibility, and multiple points of view. SIRS **summaries** for each resource **save time for learning** for both students and teachers.
- Teachers can use the **Standards Search** tool to find and print standards-based learning materials for reading and class discussion that helps keep textbooks current and students engaged. **Reference** resources help students to understand what they are reading and also discover related information. **Lexile** and SIRS reading level indicators provide the reading guidance that teachers can use and students need to select resources that they can understand. Information is organized according to **Library of Congress** derived subject headings that **correlate** with the traditional print collections in each school library.
- Support for School Leader Priorities:** [Learning Resources for ALL Students](#) — All SIRS resources are selected by **experienced editors**, including former teachers, and indexed to curriculum topics and standards appropriate for grades 8-12. Robust primary sources provide for the research need of **AP** or **IB** courses. **Lexile** scores for each article support the needs of challenged, mainstream and advanced readers.
- Support for Challenged Learners** – SIRS has integrated a [variety of tools](#) to help immigrant, ESL, and other challenged learners to succeed. Audio Read-Aloud, a ten-language translation tool, visual searching, and robust multimedia resources combine to provide research-proven solutions for improving language arts literacy.

Lexile Reading Level Scores – SIRS [Lexile](#) searches and sorts help teachers and students to find resources appropriate for advanced, mainstream, and challenged learners.

Critical Thinking about Real World Issues – SIRS helps students better understand more than 300 [real world issues](#). SIRS combines both pro and con with its unique [5-step process](#) for critical thinking, to engage and challenge students in problem solving.

21st Century Literacy and Skills – SIRS Issues Researcher provides content and both student AND teacher tools to support [21st Century literacies and skills](#) as outlined by the new ISTE and AASL standards.

Training and Professional Development – ProQuest provides a variety of [online and in-person](#) trainings to ensure best results for your students.

Proven Learning Pedagogy – Inquiry-based learning has been proven by [scientific research](#) to be more effective in the long run in building essential skills and learning academic content, too. 21st Century Inquiry-based learning is rapidly supplementing or replacing textbook learning in most schools. SIRS has won [many awards](#) for its effective support of teaching and learning.

Student Safety on the Internet – Each resource and website is [editorially selected](#) to ensure there are no inappropriate links and no or minimal advertising, thus reducing the need for teacher **supervision** and therefore limiting issues and **discipline problems**.

Standards Correlation Tool – Teachers can search for articles and websites that are correlated to their state **content standards**. State standards for essential Language Arts skills and critical thinking are inherent in every well-designed inquiry-based learning assignment.

Teacher Power:

Support for Challenged Learners – SIRS has integrated a [variety of tools](#) to help immigrant, ESL, and other challenged learners to succeed. Audio Read-Aloud, a ten-language translation tool, visual searching, and robust multimedia resources combine to provide research-proven solutions for improving language arts literacy.

Building Critical Thinking with Leading Issues – The unique [5-step process](#) includes Issue Overview, Pro vs. Con, and My Analysis modules for each of 300 Leading Issues. [My Analysis](#) includes addressing essential questions for critical thinking.

Global Awareness – Each Leading Issue includes a global as well as a national perspective. Global awareness is a **21st Century literacy**.

Standards Correlation – Teachers can search for articles and websites automatically correlated to their state's content standards with the new **content [standards search tool](#)**.

Keeping Curriculum and Textbooks Current – Teachers who rely on textbooks, many of which are obsolete, can use Issues Researcher to expand content by “fair use” printing of current articles, maps, and photos for class discussion and to include in student notebooks.

Models for Student Reports & Presentations – Most teachers lack experience in providing models for students to use for written reports and **PowerPoint presentations**. Teachers also may have difficulty evaluating these activities when their major tool has been multiple choice tests. ProQuest provides a **rubrics evaluation** tool model.

Home Access – Teacher planning time is limited in school. Home access to SIRS Issues Researcher provides the flexibility that good teachers need to plan effective lessons.

Teachable Moments – ProQuest newsletter for teachers includes a Researcher activity and Spotlight themed to significant events for each month such as Women’s History and Black History Month.

Learning Activities Archive – Teachers can access an archive of hundreds of inquiry-based learning activities for Issues Researcher.

Curriculum Pathfinders – Organizes editor-selected resources by curriculum area and the most taught topics in that area to help students find information faster and more easily.

eBook Collection – Access to a growing eBook collection of classical literature provides a strategy to expand what students can read simultaneously beyond classroom and library collections.

Student Power:

Student Tools for Challenged Learners – Audio Read-Aloud, a ten-language translation tool, visual searching, and robust multimedia resources combine to provide research-proven solutions for improving language arts literacy.

Lexile Reading Level Scores – SIRS **Lexile** searches and sorts help students to find resources appropriate for advanced, mainstream, and challenged learners.

Reading with Understanding – Access to an interactive dictionary, thesaurus, almanac, and encyclopedia increases vocabulary and understanding of articles.

Beats Surfing and Googling – Students get the best and most relevant editorially selected articles and websites. Article and website summaries make selection easier, more effective, and save time.

Home and Community Center Access – Student time on school computers is often limited. Home and Community Center Access increases learning opportunities.

Citation Support – Examples of the most popular citation styles for a variety of print and digital resources is just a click away.

NCLB Connection:

Reading Level Support – All articles are [Lexile](#) scored to help teachers and students select articles that they can read and understand.

State Standards Correlation – Teachers can search for resources directly correlated to state and national [academic content standards](#).

Student Tools for Challenged Learners –Audio Read-Aloud, a ten-language translation tool, visual searching, and robust multimedia resources combine to provide research-proven solutions for improving language arts literacy.

Technology Integration – Every ProQuest mini-research activity integrates teacher and student technology, information literacy, and **language arts** skills, and 21st Century literacies and skills.

Professional Development – SIRS [Professional Development and training](#) provides training in creating, managing, and evaluating 21st Century inquiry-based learning activities that integrate critical thinking with information literacy and language arts literacy.

SIRS Issues Researcher (MS + HS) – [Key Features](#)

| TEACHER Content, Tools, and Support | STUDENT Content and Tools |
|---|--|
| SKS newsletter provides information and learning activities-- hundreds archived from past newsletters | Visual search tool will enable students to explore different topics for ideas, relationships, and context |
| Content dynamically correlated to state standards through the state standards search tool | Audio Read-Aloud helps ELL students to learn English faster when they are not literate in their own language |
| Leading Issues provides 5-step process to integrate critical thinking and problem solving skills | Translation tool lets students convert English to one of 10 languages including Spanish |
| Leading Issues provides four unique 21 st Century models for students to demonstrate what they learn | Searching support with a results taskbar that automatically provides related topics--"more like this" |
| 21st Century tool--Article Translation helps students translate English into 1 of 10 supported languages | Collaborative tools, such as social bookmarking and graphic organizers, enhance student sharing of ideas |
| 21 st Century tool—Audio Read-Aloud reinforces the word and phonics connection needed to learn English | Greatly expanded multimedia content to help support visual learning for reading challenged students |
| Each Leading Issue connected to global perspective links to see impact on other countries or regions | 21 st Century presentation tools for data and statistics chart maker, and automatic citation generator |
| Online Professional development through webinars | Editor-created multimedia, videos, interactives, timelines, statistics and image galleries help build media and visual literacy competencies |