

SIRS[®] Issues Researcher

Leading Issues

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RESEARCH TIP:

✓ *Picking a Topic*

It's important to choose something that is interesting to you and also meets the requirements of your project.



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Abortion	Banned Books	Commercial Whaling
Abortion, Moral and Ethical Aspects	Basque Country	Conflict Diamonds
Abstinence	Battered Women	Conservation of Natural Resources
Abstinence and AIDS Prevention	Beauty Pageants	Consumer Privacy
Abstinence Education	Bioethics and Cloning	Controversial Mascots
Access to Contraception	Biomedical Technology	Convicted Felons' Rights
Acculturation and Assimilation	Bioterrorism	Copyright Infringement
Adoption	Birth Control	Cosmetic Surgery
Advertising	Birth Control Availability	Criminal Justice
Advertising and Children	Black Market	Cults
Advertising in Schools	Body Image	Curfew
Affirmative Action	Bulimia	Cyberbullying
Afghanistan	Bullying	Cybercrime
AIDS	Business Ethics	Cybersocializing
AIDS in Africa	Campaign Funds	Darfur
Alcohol Use	Capital Punishment	Dating Violence/Date Rape
Alcoholism	Cell Phones in School	Death Penalty/Capital Punishment
Alternative Education	Censorship	Democracy
Alternative Energy Sources	Character Education	Discrimination in Criminal Justice Administration
Alternative Medicine	Cheating	Divorce
Animal Cloning	Chechnya	Domestic Terrorism
Animal Cruelty	Child Abuse	Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
Animal Experimentation	Child Care	Doping in Sports
Animal Rights	Child Labor	Downloading
Anonymous Egg and Sperm Donation	Child Sexual Abuse	Drilling for Oil
Anorexia	Children's Online Protection Laws	Drug Control
Anti-Immigrant Movement	Church and State	Drug Legalization
Arts Censorship	Civil Rights	Drug Testing
Assisted Suicide	Clean Coal	Drunk Driving
Athletes' Pay	Climate Change	Eating Disorders
Bailout	Cloning	
	Colombia	

“How has this Leading Issue affected communities in other states or countries where my family or friends live?”

DID YOU KNOW?

✓ Essential Questions

Essential Questions with answers and viewpoints will help you understand the specific question under debate for each issue.

Electoral College	Genocide	Internment
Emergency Contraception	Global Financial Crisis	Interracial Adoption
Endangered Species	Global Warming	Iraq
Energy Dependency	Globalization	Islamic Fundamentalism
Environmentalism	Globalization, Moral and Ethical Aspects	Jammu and Kashmir
Ethics and Criminal Behavior	Green Movement	Jobs for Immigrants
Ethnic Relations	Gun Control	Journalism and School Censorship
European Union	Gun Safety	Jury System
Euthanasia	Hate Crimes	Juvenile Delinquency
Experimental AIDS Treatment	Health Care	Korean Peninsula
Extraterrestrial Life	Health Care Reform	Late-Term Abortion
Factory Farms	Herbal Supplements	Lobbying
Fad Diets	Holocaust Denial	Local Food Movement
Fair Trade	Homelessness	Marijuana Legalization
Family	Homelessness, International	Mass Media
Famine	Homeschooling	Media Bias
Fantasy Sports Leagues	Homework	Medical Ethics
Federal Government and Economic Policy	Human Cloning	Medical Malpractice
Federal Regulation of Prescription Drugs	Human Reproductive Technology	Medical Marijuana
Filtering Software	Human Rights	Medical Practice Regulation
First Amendment and Censorship	Human Rights, Universal	Mental Depression
Food and Nutrition	Human Smuggling	Mental Health
Food Safety	Human Trafficking	Mental Health Insurance
Freedom of Religion	Hunting	Merit Pay for Teachers
Freedom of Speech	Identity Cards	Military Recruiting
Freedom of the Press	Identity Theft	Minimum Wage
Gambling	Illegal Immigration	Mixed Martial Arts/Ulimate Fighting
Gangs	Immigration	Mortgage and Lending Issues
Gay Adoption	Interfaith Movement	Music Lyrics
Gay Liberation Movement	International Adoption	National Security and Privacy
Gay Rights	International Monetary Fund	Natural Disasters
Gays in the Military	International Space Station	No Child Left Behind Act
Genetic Engineering	International Trade	Northern Ireland
Genetic Testing	International War on Drugs	Nuclear energy
Genetically Modified Foods	Internet Censorship	Nuclear Weapons
	Internet Gambling	Obesity

- Outsourcing
- Overpopulation
- Ozone Depletion
- Palestinian Territories
- Parentage, Right to Know
- Parental Consent for Abortion
- Partial Birth Abortion/Late-Term Abortion
- Patients' Rights
- Paying for Grades
- Plastic Surgery
- Pollution
- Polygamy
- Popular Culture
- Pornography
- Poverty
- Poverty, International
- Prescription Drug Advertising
- Privacy and the Press
- Privacy in Schools
- Privacy in the Workplace
- Privacy Rights for Teenagers
- Privatization
- Property Rights
- Prostitution
- Racial Discrimination
- Racial Profiling
- Rape (Dating Violence)
- Recycling
- Religion
- Religion in the Public Sphere
- Religious Fundamentalism
- Renewable Energy
- Reporters and Shield Laws
- Right of Privacy
- Rights of Non-Mainstream Religions
- Same-Sex Marriage
- School Discipline and Corporal Punishment
- School Prayer
- School Safety
- School Schedule
- School Shootings
- School Uniforms
- School Vouchers
- Second Amendment and Right to Bear Arms
- Sex Education
- Single Parents
- Single-Sex Schools/Classrooms
- Smokeless Tobacco
- Smoking
- Smoking Bans
- Social Security Reform
- Solar Energy
- Sovereignty
- Space Exploration & Travel
- Space Missions
- Space Vehicles
- Sports
- State Lotteries
- Stem Cells
- Stock Markets
- Student Expression and School Discipline
- Student-Athlete Compensation
- Substance Abuse
- Suicide
- Surrogacy
- Sweatshops
- Tax Exemptions for Religious Organizations
- Taxation
- Teaching of Evolution
- Technology
- Technology and Privacy
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Teenage Sexual Behavior
- Teenagers, Civil Rights
- Teenagers, Suicidal Behavior
- Teens and Cosmetic Surgery
- Teens and Driving
- Terrorism
- Title IX
- Tobacco Advertising
- Tobacco Regulation
- Torture
- Treatment of Prisoners
- U.S. Foreign Aid
- U.S. War on Drugs
- Underage Drinking
- Underground Economy
- Unemployment
- United Nations
- Vegetarianism
- Violence in Mass Media
- Voting Age
- Voting Fraud
- War Crimes/War Criminals
- War on Terror
- Water Use
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Web 2.0
- Welfare
- Women's Rights
- World Conflicts
- Work and Family
- Workplace Discrimination
- Zero-Tolerance Policies
- Zoos



RESEARCH TIP:
 ✓ **Target Audience**
 Understanding characteristics of your target audience can influence your topic choice. Try to present a topic that is meaningful and interesting to your audience.