



Researching Controversial Issues

Exploring the Topic

Choose or refine your topic, familiarize yourself with the controversy, identify keywords & parties

- [CQ Researcher](#) – Collection of reports on topics in the news. Each report includes a background, chronology, bibliography and statistics. Part of CQ Electronic Library (Library database)
- [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#) – Collection of pro/con essays, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, links to Web sites, full-text magazine/newspaper articles and media files. (Library database)
- **Pro/Con essay books @ REF H31** – Various series examining social, political, and economic debates. Located in the Reference Collection, 1st floor.
- **Newspapers and news magazines** – Accessible through multiple library databases. Library website -> Databases.-> Subject category: News
- **Congressional Digest** - Each issue features a current controversy with pro & con perspectives covered. Available in print in library periodicals section or online through [Academic Search Complete](#).
- **Subject Encyclopedias** – In-depth entries written by experts, usually containing bibliographies.
 - [Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) – Collection of reference books in online format (Library database)
 - [Reference Universe](#) – Find subject encyclopedias in the reference collection. **Be sure to restrict search to titles in SEU library.** (Library database)

Investigating the Issue

Books – Overviews of topic, histories of the controversy, evidential data and parties to the issue.

- [SEU Online Catalog](#) (Library website)
- [NetLibrary](#) (Library database)
- [WorldCat](#) (Library database)

If you need a book or article that the library does not have, request an Interlibrary Loan using the library website.

Scholarly Articles – Research studies, evidential data, etc.

- [Academic Search Complete](#) & [Academic OneFile](#) – Limit to scholarly/peer-reviewed. (Library databases)
- Subject-specific databases, e.g., [AGRICOLA](#), [ATLA Religion](#), [Business Source Complete](#), [Communication & Mass Media Complete](#), [ERIC](#), [PsycINFO](#), [PubMed](#) (Library databases)

Parties to the Controversy

- Find parties by reading articles and books on the topic, [CQ Researcher](#) reports, [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#) articles, and bibliographies in REF H31 books.
- Search [Google](#) for advocacy groups/position papers on .org websites:



- **Search library databases for articles about different sides in the debate:**

Find: in

and in

and in

in

(Example search in Academic Search Complete)

- Search [PolicyFile](#) (Library database)
- Search for **Congressional testimony (might sometimes be appropriate to use as evidence):**
 - Use [Congressional LexisNexis](#) – library database; enter search term & look under “Hearing”
 - Use [Google](#) – ex. “gay marriage” *testimony site:gov*

Finding Supporting Details

Statistics (see also library guide *Finding Statistics*)

- [Government statistics from FedStats](#)
- [Statistical Abstract of the U.S.](#)
- **Information Plus series** – in Reference Collection at H31 and through the library database [Opposing Viewpoints Recourse Center](#)
- [SEU Library Statistics Links](#)
- Search [Google](#) for statistics



Laws and Government Information

- [GalleryWatch CRS Reports](#) – Congressional Research Service reports providing nonpartisan, objective analysis and research on legislative issues (Library database)
- [LexisNexis Academic](#) – Court cases, laws, law journals (Library database)
- [LexisNexis Congressional](#) - information & testimony (Library database)
- [CQ Electronic Library](#) – Information on public policy issues (Library database)
- [LegalTrac & Legal Collection](#) – Scholarly law journals (Library database)
- [SEU Library Legal links](#) (Library website -> Research Guides -> Web links -> Subject: Law)
- [Google Government Search](#)
- [THOMAS](#) – Find U.S. bills, laws & Congressional committee reports at
- [Texas Legislature Online](#) –bills, statutes and other legislative information at (similar sites may be available for other states)

Library Guides

- [Online Search Strategies](#)
- [Finding Statistics](#)
- [Evaluating Research Sources](#)
- [MLA Citation Guides](#)