

Controversial Issues

Web addresses you'll need:

- Clark State Library: lib2.clarkstate.edu
- Clark State Library Catalog: library.clarkstate.edu/search
- OhioLINK: www.ohiolink.edu
- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center – Available from CSCC Library: lib2.clarkstate.edu/library/reference.html – [OFF-CAMPUS requires a username/password – see separate handout for details or call the library]

When you write a persuasive or argumentative essay, or when you are giving an oral presentation in class, you will want to identify as many points or arguments in favor of your case as possible. In order to be convincing, you also need to know what the other side's case or arguments are. In other words, you need to know the pros and cons.

Finding Ideas Using Books

These **reference** volumes are a good place to begin:

- ***Encyclopedia of Social Issues***. 6 vols. (REF HN57 .E59)
- ***The Encyclopedia of Bioethics***. (QH332 .E52)
This is an excellent source for issues that contain both ethical and biological components. The article on ABORTION, for example, gives the Protestant, Roman Catholic, and Jewish points of view.

First, see if your teacher has suggestions. Sometimes instructors get tired of reading papers on the same old subjects. (And they get very familiar with the sources, and will know immediately if you missed some key ones).

Check LOIS (our library catalog) or OhioLINK (www.ohiolink.edu), doing a title or word search, for the following series of books:

- *Contemporary World Issues*
- *Opposing Viewpoints Series*.
- *The Reference Shelf Series*.
- *Taking Sides Series*.
- *Current Controversies Series*

Each of the series listed above publishes individual books on these and other topics in compact, readable form. They always contain articles on two or more sides of every topic. You can also locate them by looking up the series title in LOIS or OhioLINK. If our copy of the book you want happens to be out, look it up in the OhioLINK Library Catalog to see if there are copies available for borrowing.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (OVRC) is now available to CSCC students online. It includes essays from Greenhaven Press' Opposing Viewpoints Series. See OVRC handout for details.

Locating Magazine & Journal Articles Using Online Databases

To search within a database for journals on a subject:

- Go to www.ohiolink.edu and click on Explore OhioLINK Databases > By Subject.

- Choose the subject area that you would like to search, such as Psychology if you want articles from psychology journals for your research.
- Click on the title of the database to which you wish to connect.
- Enter your search terms or use subject categories.

You can also explore OhioLINK Databases by name. Here are a few databases which include starting places for controversial or opposing viewpoints:

- *Academic Search Premier* – good for general articles in many subject areas.
- *A Matter of Fact* – resource for statistics
- *SIRS*
- *FACTS.com* (don't use this url—access this through OhioLINK databases)
- *Newspaper Source, NewsBank, or LexisNexis*
- *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center* – USERNAME/PASSWORD needed for off-campus access. Call the library for details.

Hints on Searching . . .

- **Academic Search Premier:**
 - Type keywords in the boxes, or browse subjects.
 - To find different sides of a topic, type your subject and another word, such as views, opinions, or controversy. This will help you narrow in to articles that contain varying opinions.
 - Check the boxes for full text only or scholarly if you'd like those options applied.
 - Many articles are available in full text—either HTML or PDF formats.
 - You can select article(s) to print or email to yourself using the folders.
- **SIRS or FACTS.com (access through OhioLINK – not facts.com website):**
 - Both SIRS and FACTS.com have subjects available for browsing. Look at the “Browse Topics” or “Current Issues” in SIRS or “Special Features” and “Issues & Controversies” in FACTS.com.

Finding Website to Use for Research

The World Wide Web is full of places where you can search for the information you need. There are many search sites to choose from and it can be difficult to know which ones offer the best place to start when you want quality sites. Here are some recommended websites to start with that provide evaluated, highly selective websites:

- Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center [Subscription resource available to CSCC students. See separate handout for details.]
- Librarian's Index to the Internet (lii.org)
Infomine (infomine.ucr.edu/)
- Internet Public Library (www.ipl.org/)

For information on citing your resources, pick up the Citing your Resources handout available in the Library or on the Library website (lib2.clarkstate.edu).