

# SIRS® Issues Researcher

## 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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## Leading Issues

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

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

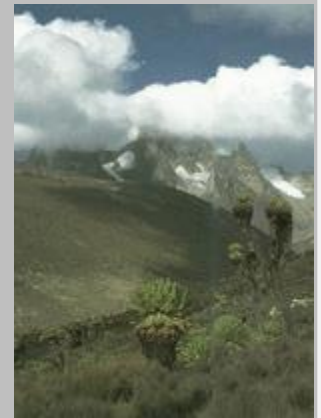
## **DID YOU KNOW?**

### **✓ Essential Questions**

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

Drug Testing	Freedom of the Press	Identity Theft
Drunk Driving	Gambling	Illegal Immigration
Eating Disorders	Gangs	Immigration
Economic Inequality	Gay Adoption	Interfaith Movement
Economic Policy, U.S.	Gay Liberation Movement	International Adoption
Education Policy	Gay Rights	International Monetary Fund
Educational Tests and Measurements	Gays in the Military	International Space Station
Election 2012	Genetic Engineering	International Trade
Elections	Genetic Testing	International War on Drugs
Electoral College	Genetically Modified Foods	Internet Censorship
Emergency Contraception	Genocide	Internet Gambling
Endangered Species	Global Economic Policy	Internment
Energy Dependency	Global Financial Crisis	Interracial Adoption
Environmentalism	Global Warming	Iraq
Ethics and Criminal Behavior	Globalization	Islamic Fundamentalism
Ethnic Relations	Globalization, Moral and Ethical Aspects	Jammu and Kashmir
European Union	Green Movement	Jobs for Immigrants
Euthanasia	Gun Control	Journalism and School Censorship
Experimental AIDS Treatment	Gun Safety	Jury System
Extraterrestrial Life	Hate Crimes	Juvenile Delinquency
Factory Farms	Health Care	Korean Peninsula
Fad Diets	Health Care Reform	Labor Unions
Fair Trade	Herbal Supplements	Late-Term Abortion
Family	Holocaust Denial	Lobbying
Famine	Homelessness	Local Food Movement
Fantasy Sports Leagues	Homelessness, International	Marijuana Legalization
Federal Government and Economic Policy	Homeschooling	Mass Media
Federal Regulation of Prescription Drugs	Homework	Media Bias
Filtering Software	Human Cloning	Medical Ethics
First Amendment and Censorship	Human Reproductive Technology	Medical Malpractice
Food and Nutrition	Human Rights	Medical Marijuana
Food Safety	Human Rights, Universal	Medical Practice Regulation
Freedom of Religion	Human Smuggling	Mental Depression
Freedom of Speech	Human Trafficking	Mental Health
	Hunting	Mental Health Insurance
	Identity Cards	Merit Pay for Teachers
		Military Recruiting

Minimum Wage	Prostitution	Stem Cells
Mixed Martial Arts/Ultimate Fighting	Racial Discrimination	Stock Markets
Mortgage and Lending Issues	Racial Profiling	Student Expression and School Discipline
Music Lyrics	Rape (Dating Violence)	Student-Athlete Compensation
National Security and Privacy	Recycling	Substance Abuse
Natural Disasters	Religion	Suicide
No Child Left Behind Act	Religion in the Public Sphere	Surrogacy
Northern Ireland	Religious Fundamentalism	Sweatshops
Nuclear Energy	Renewable Energy	Tanning Salons
Nuclear Weapons	Reporters and Shield Laws	Tax Exemptions for Religious Organizations
Obesity	Right of Privacy	Taxation
Online Social Networks	Rights of Non-Mainstream Religions	Teaching of Evolution
Organ Donation	Same-Sex Marriage	Technology
Organic Food	School Discipline and Corporal Punishment	Technology and Privacy
Outsourcing	School Prayer	Teenage Pregnancy
Overpopulation	School Safety	Teenage Sexual Behavior
Ozone Depletion	School Schedule	Teenagers, Civil Rights
Palestinian Territories	School Shootings	Teenagers, Suicidal Behavior
Parentage, Right to Know	School Uniforms	Teens and Cosmetic Surgery
Parental Consent for Abortion	School Vouchers	Teens and Driving
Partial Birth Abortion/Late-Term Abortion	Second Amendment and Right to Bear Arms	Terrorism
Patients' Rights	Sex Education	Title IX
Paying for Grades	Single Parents	Tobacco Advertising
Plastic Surgery	Single-Sex Schools/Classrooms	Tobacco Regulation
Pollution	Smokeless Tobacco	Torture
Polygamy	Smoking	Treatment of Prisoners
Popular Culture	Smoking Bans	U.S. Foreign Aid
Pornography	Social Security Reform	U.S. War on Drugs
Poverty	Solar Energy	Underage Drinking
Poverty, International	Sovereignty	Underground Economy
Prescription Drug Advertising	Space Exploration & Travel	Unemployment
Privacy and the Press	Space Missions	United Nations
Privacy in Schools	Space Vehicles	Vaccines for Kids
Privacy in the Workplace	Sports	Vegetarianism
Privacy Rights for Teenagers	Sports for Children/Adolescents	Violence in Mass Media
Privatization	State Lotteries	Voting Age
Property Rights		Voting Fraud



## 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.

War Crimes/War Criminals  
War on Terror  
Water Use  
Weapons of Mass Destruction  
Web 2.0  
Welfare  
Women's Rights  
Work and Family  
Workplace Discrimination  
World Conflicts  
Zero-Tolerance Policies  
Zoos