

Research Topics

- ❶ Review each of the research questions below.
- ❷ **Select your top 3 choices and submit them using the Google submission form (see blog).**
- ❸ As you select your topic, consider the following questions:
 - ✓ Are you interested in learning more about the issue?
 - ✓ Will you be able to identify and present rational arguments for both sides of the issue?
 - ✓ Can you locate concrete, scientific evidence to support your feelings about the issue?

Education

- Should schools adopt a year-round schedule?
- Should high school start later in the morning?
- Should students attend single-sex or co-ed schools?
- Should U.S. grade school children be required to learn a foreign language?
- Should teachers assign homework?
- Should middle schools socially promote students?
- Should states mandate physical education in high school?
- Should schools require fine arts courses for graduation?
- Should districts require community service for graduation?
- Should the federal government allow cell phone jammers in schools?
- Should schools punish students for cyberbullying that occurs outside of school?
- Should sex education be mandated in public schools?
- Should school systems require standardized testing?
- Are standardized test scores a good indication of a school's competency?
- Are standardized test scores a good indication of a student's competency?
- Should states administer tests in other languages for ESL students?
- Should students or teachers receive money for scoring well on standardized tests?
- Should local school boards be allowed to ban books from school libraries?
- Should the federal government legislate and regulate the public school curriculum?

Health and Medicine

- Should the government implement a "fat tax" on fatty and unhealthy foods?
- Should humans eat meat?
- Should the government require all citizens to purchase health insurance?
- Should hospitals treat uninsured individuals?
- Should the United States legalize the sale of human organs?

Drugs, Tobacco, and Alcohol

- Should smoking be banned in parks and other outdoor public venues?
- Should cigarettes be restricted or outlawed?
- Should minors be allowed to drink alcoholic beverages in their home with their parents' consent?
- Should the government increase or decrease the legal drinking age?
- Should drug users be incarcerated?

Work and the Economy

- Should laws prohibit the use of monitoring software in the workplace?
- Should the law permit employers to fire employees for social media content?
- Should companies follow affirmative action policies?
- Should the American government privatize Social Security?
- Should the American government abandon Social Security?
- Should the government impose a tariff or tax on products manufactured outside of the U.S.?
- Is the budget deficit a threat to America's future?
- Would a minimum wage increase help or harm the economy?

Government, Politics, and Crime Control

- Should English be the official language of the United States?
- Should campaign contributions from corporations and interest groups be restricted?
- Should term limits be imposed on Members of Congress?
- Should all citizens be required by law to vote?
- Should the U.S. postal service be privatized?
- Should violent youth offenders be tried as adults?
- Should the legal driving age be raised to 18?
- Should U.S. citizens be guaranteed the right to own a gun?
- Should states allow the death penalty?
- Does the death penalty deter crime?
- Should it be legal to torture a suspect for information?

Science & Environment

- Should the government mandate labels for genetically modified food products?
- Should the government ban GMOs?
- Should researchers use animals to test products intended for human use?
- Should the government impose caps on carbon dioxide emissions?
- Should the government mandate a minimum miles per gallon rating for all vehicles?
- Should America expand its use of nuclear energy?
- Should the government require businesses to use environmentally friendly technologies?
- Should the United States increase offshore oil drilling?
- Should wild animals be held in captivity?
- Should aquaculture be used to supplement a country's food supply?
- Should CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations) be banned?
- Should fracking be used in the U.S. to access natural gas reserves?

Mass Media & Technology

- Do violent video games cause behavior problems?
- Does TV violence increase crime?
- Does the media's portrayal of women harm girls?
- Do media outlets perpetuate stereotypes?
- Should the law allow journalists to protect the confidentiality of their sources?
- Is technology making humans more or less sociable?
- Should cell phone use in cars be banned?
- Should parents allow their children to use social media sites?

Athletics & Popular Culture

- Should regular drug testing be mandatory for professional athletes?
- Should Congress be involved in setting drug policies for professional sports?
- Should college athletes be compensated?
- Should sports betting be illegal?
- Should the government place a ban on youth football programs?
- Should youth soccer programs mandate the use of protective headgear?
- Should celebrities get involved in global politics?
- Are beauty contests helpful or harmful?
- Should the law prohibit teenage cosmetic plastic surgery?