

Subject guide: Food and Agricultural Issues and Legalizing Marijuana

(English 201A Sherr)

Food and plant issues are all over the news today. Monoculture, Genetically modified plants, Local food movements, and de-criminalizing marijuana are all health and social issues in our culture. The following guide will help steer you to some good sources for your research.

Using Cuesta's databases:

Go to Cuesta's databases first, since the information is evaluated and can be trusted.

SIRS: (<http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm>) This is a Social Issues database useful for this assignment because of its pro/con format. Choosing any of the following topics from the **Leading Issues** list on the Search page will give you an overview of the subject, some opposing viewpoint articles, and a long list of full text articles.

- Factory farms
- Local food movement
- Genetically modified foods
- Marijuana legalization
- Medical marijuana

EBSCOhost: (<http://library.cuesta.edu/magazine.htm>) is a general article database. Try different keyword searches. Always select full text. Some keyword phrases to try:

- Sustainable agriculture
- "genetically modified food"
- legalizing marijuana

ProQuest National Newspaper Core: (<http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm>) indexes 5 major national newspapers. Use this database for very current newspaper coverage. Try the keywords listed above for *EBSCO* and *SIRS*.

For **Proposition 19** articles add the *NewsBank* (<http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm>) database, which indexes the *SLO Tribune*, as well as other major California papers. You will be able to access editorials, opinion pieces, and full text articles on this subject.

Official Prop. 19 voter guide from California: <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov/propositions/19>

Finding books and eBooks

EBSCOhost eBooks: <http://web.ebscohost.com/ehost/LandingPage/landing?sid=3bad71be-a74c-43bc-9079-17c3cf4a7981@sessionmgr10&vid=0&tid=2003EB&new=True> Cuesta has 13,000 online full text books. They can be accessed from the *eLibrary* book catalog or separately from the link above. Some useful examples:

Wright, Wynne. *The fight over food [electronic resource]: producers, consumers, and activists challenge the global food system.* ONLINE

Ikerd, John E. *Crisis & opportunity [electronic resource]: sustainability in American agriculture.* ONLINE

Atkinson, Giles, *Handbook of sustainable development [electronic resource].* ONLINE

eLibrary <http://webcat.cuesta.edu> is Cuesta's book and eBook catalog. Some keywords to use when searching for books:

genetically modified food

sustainable agriculture

local agriculture

food opposing viewpoints

"drug legalization United States"

Full text online articles from trusted Web sites

These articles represent just a fraction of what is available from reliable Web pages, some of which are listed below.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/articles/m/monoculture.htm> article from Science Daily on monoculture

<http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/summaries/sustagintro.html> an introduction to sustainable agriculture

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR97/ERR97.pdf> an article on local food systems and locavores.

Internet Sites from trusted sources

<http://www.science.gov/> The science portal for the U.S. government with access to full text articles.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/> *Science Daily* with full text articles and citations.

<http://attra.ncat.org> *National Sustainable Agriculture Information Service* home page

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/> the entry point for the *National Agricultural Library*. It has thousands of links to various agencies with full text articles on every phase of agriculture and food.

<http://www.fao.org/corp/statistics/en/> from the United Nations, this site contains lots of statistics about agriculture.

<http://www.eoearth.org/> the *Encyclopedia of Earth*, with articles and links to food diversity, etc.

<http://www.pbs.org/now/shows/344/locavore.html> a PBS entry on eating locally, with links to first person experiences as a locavore.

http://www.ucsusa.org/food_and_agriculture/science_and_impacts/science/engineered-foods-allowed-on.html The *Union of Concerned Scientists* has a partial list of genetically engineered foods and other links.

<http://www.urbanfarmhub.org/resources/urban-farming/> This is a hub, or central site, for many incredibly useful links to all facets of urban farming.