

Subject Guide: Researching Social Issues

Many instructors assign a paper, speech, or other assignment around the issues that are front-page news in our society and the world today. The following guide will help you find the most, and best, information.

Choose a subject that interests you, since you will be spending time researching it.

Cuesta Databases

The following databases can be accessed remotely from the Library channel on your myCuesta page, choosing the **Resources** tab.

- *SIRS*: <http://library.cuesta.edu/journal.htm>. *SIRS* is a social issues site, with a pro/con format and a list of **Leading Issues** to choose from.
- *EBSCOhost*: <http://library.cuesta.edu/journal.htm>. *EBSCOhost* is a general journal database that allows you to search for full-text articles in thousands of journals.
- *ProQuest National Newspaper Core*: <http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm> This database indexes 5 major newspapers, and is useful for current national or international issues.
- *NewsBank* (local and California issues): <http://library.cuesta.edu/newspaper.htm> This database indexes the *San Luis Obispo Tribune*. Use it for local and state issues.

Cuesta Book Catalog:

- *eLibrary* <http://webcat.cuesta.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/hxDeODQLTM/SAN-LUIS/49780037/60/502/X>. The *eLibrary* catalog includes digital eBooks as well as books in the Cuesta Library. The *Opposing Viewpoints* series is a good place to start. Simply put that series title in the **Search** box and choose **Search**.
- *EBSCOhost* y eBooks: can be accessed separately from the print book collection from the Cuesta campus or remotely. Choose the *EBSCOhost* or **eBook** option under **Find a Book**.

Internet Sites

<http://www.procon.org/> - This site has a list of topics with links to an overview of that topic, along with pro and con essays.

<http://homeworktips.about.com/od/essaywriting/a/argumenttopics.htm> This site lists interesting topics to choose from, and hints on writing opinion essays.

<http://library.sau.edu/bestinfo/Hot/hotindex.htm> - This site, from St. Ambrose University, has links to many 'hot-topic' issues.