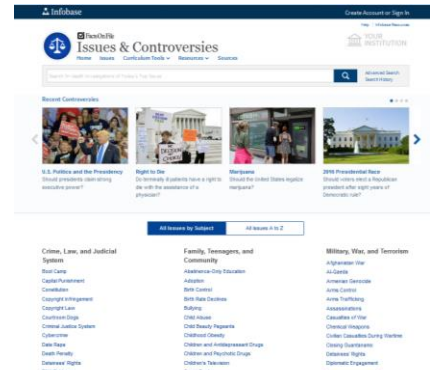


Issues & Controversies



Educator's Guide

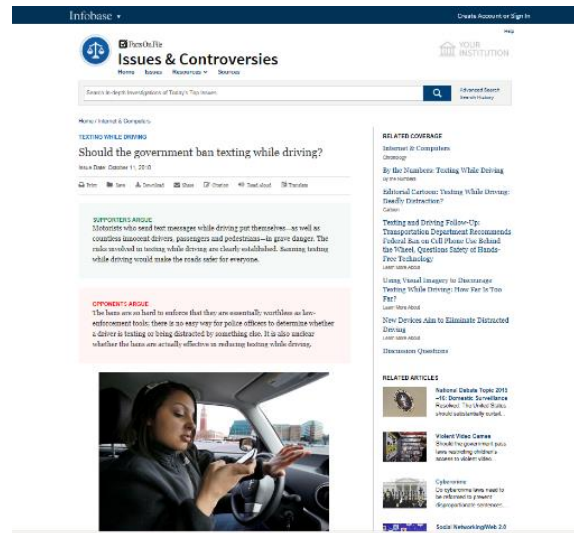
Issues & Controversies offers an objective analysis of hundreds of today's hot topics and conflicts. Exclusive, extensive coverage is timely and unbiased. A cross-curricular resource, *Issues & Controversies* provides in-depth articles covering hot-button issues in politics, government, business, society, education, and popular culture. *Issues & Controversies* helps students use fundamental concepts to develop and promote critical thinking skills as they learn, understand and take a position, on some of the most challenging topics in today's society.



Issues & Controversies provides your students with a unique tool for understanding today's crucial issues. Designed to inspire thought-provoking debates, each in-depth article presents both sides of an issue clearly and without bias. Updated weekly, this resource presents the key facts, arguments, history, and current context of today's most important issues – an ideal resource for research papers, debate preparation, and persuasive writing assignments.

Issues & Controversies will help students to:

- ✓ learn, explore, understand, and challenge
- ✓ use critical-thinking skills in comparing and contrasting different views, goals and ideas
- ✓ understand pro and con statements
- ✓ understand how a debate can enlighten, inform and change one's point of view
- ✓ reinforce research skills
- ✓ develop and fine-tune search skills
- ✓ think abstractly when making comparisons, reading articles, watching a video; and listening to a speech or debate
- ✓ learn to listen for key information (video and audio resources)
- ✓ understand conflict resolution
- ✓ craft a coherent argument based on facts, evidence, and data, while understanding valid and competing viewpoints
- ✓ develop and fine-tune reasoning skills and find resolutions to problems and conflicts
- ✓ analyze information, articulate a position, and discuss what they are learning about in an article, video, primary source or other resource
- ✓ evaluate a wide array of resources to convey information in a coherent essay or presentation



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Content:

Issues & Controversies delivers a comprehensive collection of resources and materials for complete coverage of hot-button issues in the news, from abortion, capital punishment, and gun control to health care, immigration, racial profiling, terrorism, and more! New articles are added regularly to incorporate the latest controversies and events. Original articles are written by professional staff to provide a coherent, bias-free analysis of divisive issues, offering a multiplicity of perspectives and arguments on all sides. Information is curated and organized so that students can access all the information they need quickly, easily, and intuitively. Content is balanced, objective, and expertly edited and constantly updated. Original videos provide introductory overviews on major issues, giving students a unique visual learning experience. Curriculum and Educator resources include student activities, hand-outs and self-assessments. **Issues & Controversies** is the one-stop resource students and researchers need to grasp an issue, write a report or essay, and prepare for a debate.

Highlights and features include:

- **Exclusive, extensive, and objective coverage:** timely, in-depth articles on hot-button issues
- **Original articles** written by professional staff and specially commissioned freelancers
- **Pro and con statements:** main arguments focusing on each side of the controversy
- **Original videos** provide introductory overviews on major issues
- **Full-Length videos and transcripts of live *Intelligence Squared U.S. Debates***, featuring leading authorities and experts
- **Searchable Reuters®** newsfeed covers breaking news and headlines
- **Comprehensive chronologies** give students a quick overview of crucial historical events relevant to each issue
- **Full coverage of each National High School Debate Topic** including a comprehensive overview, with detailed analysis of the key aspects of the annual debate topic
- **Editorials and opinion articles** for a broader perspective on the issues. Thousands of editorials and opinions from renowned newspaper sources – including *The New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Washington Post*, *Toronto Star*, *Miami Herald*, *Houston Chronicle* and more... via News Edge.
- **Articles include:** Discussion Questions, Bibliography, Additional Resources, Contact Information, Keywords, and Citation Information
- **Encyclopedia** with thousands of articles for background research



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- **Correlated** to Common Core, state, national, provincial and International Baccalaureate Organization, national STEM, and Next Generation Science Standards
- **Powerful Teacher/Curriculum Tools** promote classroom use, with research and writing tools and activities for students and educators
- **Thousands of links to key news stories**, timelines, primary source documents, and additional resources, providing researchers context, insight, and perspective
- **Dynamic citations** in MLA and Chicago formats
- **Easy-to-navigate with a new interface**
- **Google Translate**, 80+ languages
- **Customizable content widgets**
- **Download articles as PDF's**
- **Read Aloud** tool
- **Save to Folder options**
- **Support center with live help chat**

Don't miss:

- ✓ **"By the Numbers"** offers statistical material with every article and issue
- ✓ **"In the News"** section for each issue
- ✓ **Interactive polls** on every issue
- ✓ **Editorial Cartoons and Discussion Questions**
- ✓ **National High School Debate Topics**
- ✓ **Presidency and Presidential Races**
- ✓ **Debate Videos**
- ✓ **Enhanced Lessons:** one stop for overviews, videos, challenging questions, polls, primary sources, etc.... on selected evergreen hot topics
- ✓ **Student Tools:** Guides to help students analyze historical documents, complete a historical document worksheet, evaluate online sources, avoid plagiarism, summarize an article, write a research paper, and write and deliver a speech
- ✓ **Educator Tools:** Guides to helping educators include: Assessing Students' Speeches; Assigning Student Interviews; Holding a Town Hall Meeting; Exploring Point of View; Preventing Plagiarism; Using Editorial Cartoons
- ✓ **Bill of Rights in Debate:** links to Issues & Controversies articles that relate to key amendments to the U.S. Constitution

BY THE NUMBERS

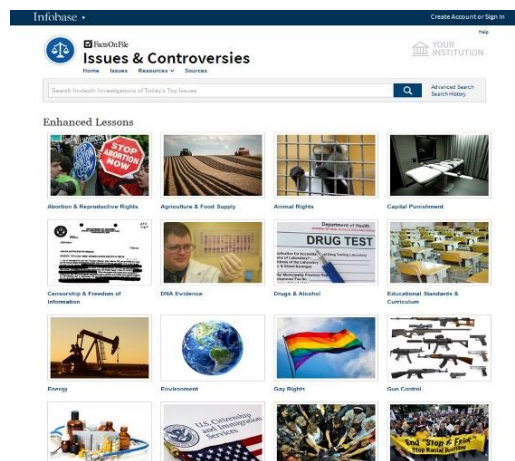
By the Numbers: Capital Punishment

Issue Date: June 2, 2015

Print Save Download Share Citation Read Aloud Translate

The data below are from the Issues and Controversies article Capital Punishment (June 2, 2015)

Capital Punishment	
Approximate number of prisoners that have been put to death since 1976	1,400
Percentage of executions since 1976 by lethal injection	85
Number of executions carried out from 1977 to 1991	157
Number of executions carried out in 1999	98
Number of executions carried out in 2008	37
Number of executions carried out in 2009	52



Issues & Controversies



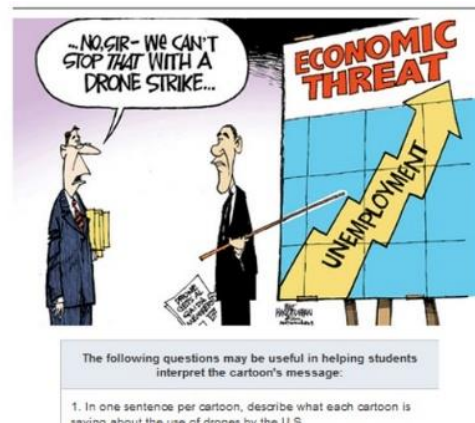
Educator's Guide

Projects and Ideas for Educators – using *Issues & Controversies*:

Issues & Controversies is a thought-provoking, educational resource that will engage students as they learn about, analyze, understand, challenge and discuss and debate today's crucial issues. This award-winning resource will also help student strengthen key research skills, find essential data, and prepare for debates. Here are a few examples on how *Issues & Controversies* can help stimulate learning, promote discussions and engage students.

Research it, Understand it, Debate it:

- Located in the Resources tab- under "Educator Tools," – "*Holding a Town Hall Meeting*" is a great example of how resolving local issues by use of a town council or decision-making body can work. Check out the topics and sample formats provided that will guide students in the conflict-resolution process
- Use the National Debate Topic (current topic or historical listing – located under the "Resources" tab on the home page), and divide the class in two. Have the supporters and opponents research their topic using *Issues & Controversies* and stage a debate.
- *Editorial Cartoons and Questions* can help students understand ideas and concepts with a little humor and fun. Choose a topic from the Editorial Cartoons & Questions listing. Have students review the cartoons and research the topic in *Issues & Controversies*. Use the discussion questions to promote interest and debate. Ask students to create their own cartoon on the topic and discuss their concepts, ideas, and points-of-view. Are they pro or con?
- Using the "Enhanced Lessons" in *Issues & Controversies*, choose one of these high-interest topics, (i.e. Issue: Gun Control). Research and discuss the topic with students in class. Set aside a few minutes each class and review current articles and information that can be found in the "Reuters News Feed" on the Issue Page. In a few weeks, gather and discuss how the topic touches various aspects of today's society. Lead a discussion that poses the following questions: What is this topic's relevance to society? Where do you stand on the issue(s)?
- Using one of the issues from the home page of *Issues & Controversies*, provide students with three "counter-factual statements" about that issue, (i.e. Smoking Bans & Tobacco: What if there were no smoking bans in restaurants, hospitals or public facilities? What if there were no age restrictions on purchasing or using tobacco products? What if the United States totally banned smoking?). Ask students to choose one of the counter factual statements and write a brief essay on how this would change the current status of the issue.



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- Choose three issues from the home page of *Issues & Controversies* that are somewhat related (i.e., Gun Control, Capital Punishment, and Crime & Law Enforcement). Write the poll questions for each issue on a sheet of paper and students to cast their votes on each question. Collect the information and have students tally up their votes. Compare the class results to the “view results” data in the *Issues & Controversies* database. Are there similarities? Discuss your findings.
- Using *Issues & Controversies*, choose a topic and examine the “Chronology” of the issue over time. Choose 2 – 3 of the historical events noted on the timeline and ask students how these particular events influenced the issue as we currently understand it. Have students write a brief paragraph anonymously expressing their opinions. Read several of the student’s paragraphs to the class and discuss their views.
- Based on the information and format of topics presented in *Issues & Controversies*, have students work with a partner(s) and choose local or school topics that they believe are controversial. (i.e.: Should school uniforms be required? Should cell phones be banned from school? Should student grades dictate whether they can play a sport? Should schools ban soda and junk food from the cafeteria?). Ask students to use the same format as the *Issues & Controversies* database in presenting their topics. Prepare several questions around the topic and discuss the pros and cons for each; take a poll and discuss the chronology and history of the issue. Presentations to the class will be fun, exciting, and engaging.

Your Feedback ...Please!

Your feedback is important to us. Tell us how you like *Issues & Controversies* and share with us the ways you integrate this resource into your lessons. We love to hear your feedback—positive or negative.

Please email: onlinesales@infobaselearning.com and note “Issues & Controversies Feedback” on the “Subject” line in your email.

Thank you for your support of our products!