

Choosing a Research Topic

Choosing a topic for a paper you will spend three months working on is difficult. Below is a comprehensive list of possible topics, any of which you may choose for your argumentative research paper. You may also modify the following topics. Be sure to check out your topic with me before you start researching! Only one person is allowed to research each topic.

(You may change your topic, but remember to check out your new topic with me!)

Technology

1. Does technology make us more alone?
2. Is automation better than humans?
3. Should what employees say on Facebook (or other social media) be grounds for firing?
4. Do social media sites affect relationships negatively?
5. Is Amazon too powerful?
6. Is Google too powerful?
7. Are websites, such as Amazon, killing small town business?

Technology in School

1. Should cell phones be banned in schools?
2. Is online learning as good as face-to-face learning?
3. Is it better to read on a screen or on paper?
4. Do schools have the right to confiscate and investigate the contents of students' cell phones and/or social media accounts?

Entertainment Industry

1. Does reality TV promote dangerous stereotypes?
2. Is TV causing youth to be more violent?
3. Are video games causing youth to be more violent?
4. Should music artists have their music censored?
5. Should violent video games be sold to minors?
6. Should children's beauty pageants (shows like "Toddlers and Tiaras") be outlawed?
7. Do children's beauty pageants (shows like "Toddlers and Tiaras") create in young girls a false sense of what "beauty" really is?
8. Should reality TV (shows like "Keeping Up With the Kardashians," "Big Brother," "The Bachelor," etc.) be banned?

Arts

1. Does reading a book count more than listening to one?
2. Should schools and public libraries be allowed to ban books?
3. Should parents have control over what texts are read in the classroom?
4. Should society support and promote artists and others pursuing the creative world?
5. Does musical training make a person more successful?

Gender/Sexual Orientation Issues

1. Is school designed more for girls than boys?
2. Is there too much pressure on girls to be perfect?
3. Do photoshopped images make society feel better about their own looks?
4. Do schools/employers have a right to ask a student's/employee's sexual orientation or gender?
5. Do schools/employers have an obligation to provide special services for students/employees who identify as transgender (such as a private shower after PhyEd or a private bathroom)?
6. Should national scouting organizations allow both genders into troops?
7. Is transgenderism a mental illness?
8. Are there more than two genders?

Sports

1. Is too much emphasis put on sports in school?
2. Should athlete's participation in sports be dependent on them having a "C" or higher in all classes?
3. Should public figures, such as Colin Kaepernick, be held to high standards?
4. Do sports help students perform better in all their other classes?
5. Do national sports leagues, such as the NFL, have the responsibility to uphold political standards presented to Americans through foundational documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution?

Politics

1. Should the United States stop using the death penalty?
2. Should America lesson the amount of available government assistance?
3. Have government assistance programs created a society of lazy individuals?
4. Should our current lawmakers be expected to maintain the values set in place by our founding fathers?
5. Should the Constitution be modernized?
6. Should the Affordable Health Care Act be repealed?
7. Should nuclear weapons be banned worldwide?
8. Does freedom of speech give people the right to use hate speech?
9. Is America moving toward Socialism?

Voting

1. Should everyone be required to prove citizenship to vote in any election?
2. Does America have a moral obligation to stop voter fraud?
3. Should felons (who are citizens) be allowed to vote after they have served their time?
4. Should the voting age be lowered?

Gun Control

1. Should America ban guns to prevent future mass shootings?
2. Should every primary and secondary school employ an armed guard?
3. Should teachers be armed?
4. Should the American government implement a gun buyback?

Immigration

1. Should a wall be built on America's southern border?
2. Should the millions of undocumented immigrants be allowed to live in the United States without fear of being deported?
3. Should America stop bringing in mass amounts of refugees from Somalia?
4. Should the United States make English its official national language?
5. Is the process of becoming a legal citizen in American too unattainable?
6. Should Minnesota be named a sanctuary state?

Parenting and Childhood

1. Should the legal driving age be lowered?
2. Should the age of enlistment be lowered?
3. Should parents have a right to discipline their children how they see fit?
4. Is modern culture ruining childhood?
5. Should parents limit the amount of time spent on technological devices?
6. Should all children be granted an allowance?
7. Should single people be allowed to adopt children? (or foster children?)
8. Should same-sex parents be allowed to adopt children? (or foster children?)
9. Should parents pay children for good grades?
10. Should parents be expecting their children to do chores?

Parents and School

1. Do parents blame teachers too much for their child's wrongdoings?
2. Should all children be required to go to preschool?
3. Should parents be required to attend parent-teacher conferences?
4. Does divorce affect a child's education negatively?
5. Do "helicopter parents" do more harm than good to their children?

Character and Morality

1. Is the GenZ Generation more self-centered than earlier generations?
2. Is the GenZ Generation more “lazy” than earlier generations?
3. If a student breaks the law off of school property, does the school have a moral obligation to punish the student?

School

1. Is group work beneficial in school?
2. Should schools group students by ability?
3. Does the No Child Left Behind (now the Every Child Succeeds Act) really work in schools?
4. Should America do away with Common Core and give the control of curriculum back to the teachers?
5. Do schools provide students with enough opportunities to be creative?
6. Should schools be implementing stronger punishments for misbehavior? (Misbehavior can include, but is not limited to, breaking any school policy, bullying, disruptive behavior, disrespect to other students or staff, etc.)
7. Should the legal age to drop out of school be changed?
8. Is it too easy to receive an “A” in classes?
9. Should discomfort excuse students from having to complete an assignment?
10. Do standardized tests measure abilities and/or should they be taken seriously?
11. Is standards-based grading more effective than traditional grading?
12. Should schools continue to fund arts programs?
13. Should public schools require students to wear uniforms?

College

1. Is a college education really necessary for success in life?
2. Should college tuition be free to the student?
3. Should affirmative action be supported in college admissions?
4. Does supporting affirmative action create more discrimination in college?

Jobs and Careers

1. Do employers have a right to look through their employees’ social media accounts?
2. Is a college education imperative to receiving a “well-paying” career?
3. Should minimum wage be raised to \$15 per hour?
4. Should all eligible Americans be required to work?
5. Do illegal immigrants have a right to work in America?
6. Do employers have a moral obligation to check citizenship before hiring?

Smoking and Illegal Substances

1. Is smoking cigarettes (or vaping/chewing/doing drugs/drinking/etc.) a problem among teenagers?
2. Are methods like Chantix, nicotine gum, or the nicotine patch effective for quitting smoking long-term?

Science

1. Should the world be concerned about climate change?
2. Should scientists try to find a way for humans to live on another planet?
3. Should the government fund more scientific research-based projects?

Health Issues/Medical Issues

1. Should schools require all students to be vaccinated before attendance?
2. Should vaccinations be mandatory for all people living in America?
3. Should physician-assisted suicide be legal in every state?
4. Should terminally ill patients be allowed to die on their own terms?
5. Should euthanasia be legal in America?
6. Is animal testing necessary?
7. Is there ever a viable reason to implore Cryonics?
8. Do parents have a right to choose the genetics of their children?
9. Should holistic medical treatments be the preferred first course of action for medical healthcare?
10. Should holistic medical treatments be covered by health insurance polices?
11. Should every eligible person be required to be an organ donor?
12. Should America provide free healthcare to all people living within its borders (including illegal immigrants)?

Nutrition and Food

1. Is a healthier school lunch program a lost cause?
2. Is it ethical to eat meat?
3. Should sugary drinks or energy drinks be taxed higher than drinks such as water or milk?
4. Should the government limit the size of sugary drinks?
5. Should the government regulate the sugar content in drinks and food?
6. Do school lunch programs have an obligation to cater to medically-diagnosed dietary needs (Celiac's, Lactose Intolerance, Food Allergies, etc.)
7. Should school lunch programs cater to dietary needs based on personal preference (Vegetarianism, Veganism, Low-Calorie, Low-Carb, Low-Fat Diets, Detox diets, Gluten-Free, etc.)
8. Should GMOs be illegal?
9. Is BST bad for humans?
10. Should food preservatives be banned?

Environment

1. Should hunting for pleasure be forbidden?
2. Should wild animals be forced to live in captivity (ie zoos)?
3. Is fracking destroying our environment?
4. Does being a vegan, vegetarian, etc. help the environment?
5. Should deforestation of the rain forests continue?
6. Is nuclear energy safe?
7. Are alternative energy sources (water, wind, etc.) worth it?
8. Is the bottled water industry negatively affecting our environment?

Military

1. Should people interested in serving in the military be denied that right because of health issues?
2. Should all Americans be required to register for the draft (not just men)?
3. Should all Americans be required to join the military when they turn eighteen?
4. Is the military a good alternative "punishment" for serving prison time?
5. Are veterans treated fairly?
6. Should the LGBTQIA community members be allowed in the military?

Money

1. Should big corporations keep their stores out of small towns?
2. Should Americans be taught more about how to save money?
3. Is it possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and become well-off?
4. Should rich people have to pay more taxes?
5. Are illegal immigrants destroying America's economy?
6. Are the tariffs detrimental to the agriculture economy?
7. Should all working citizens be required to have an IRA?
8. Is investing in the stock market wise?

Contributors:

Gonchar, Michael. "301 Prompts for Argumentative Writing - The New York Times." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 5 Feb. 2015. Web. 17 Nov. 2016.

Kibin. "50 Argumentative Essay Topics That Will Put Up a Good Fight." *Kibin Blog*. Kibin, n.d. Web. 18 Nov. 2016.