

Research Topics

Technology

1. Does technology make us more alone?
2. Is automation better than humans?
3. Are digital photographs too plentiful to be meaningful?
4. Should what employees say on Facebook (or other social media) be grounds for firing?
5. Do social media sites affect relationships negatively?
6. Is Amazon too powerful?
7. Is Google too powerful?

Technology in School

1. Are web filters at school too restrictive?
2. Should cell phones be banned in schools?
3. Is online learning as good as face-to-face learning?
4. Is it better to read on a screen or on paper?

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," "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 be allowed to censor books their children read?
4. Should parents have control over what texts are read in the classroom?
5. Should society support and promote artists and others pursuing the creative world?
6. Does musical training make a person more successful?

Sports

1. Should college football players get paid?
2. Is too much emphasis put on sports in school?
3. Should athlete's participation in sports be dependent on them having a "C" or higher in all classes?
4. Should public sports figures, such as Colin Kaepernick, be held to high standards?
5. Does playing sports in high school help students perform better in all their other classes?
6. 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?
7. Does athletic training make a person more successful?

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. How should future mass shootings be prevented?
2. Should schools employ an armed guard?
3. Should teachers be allowed to carry armed weapons?
4. Should armed weapons be permitted on college campuses?
5. Should citizens who have a permit to carry be allowed to carry a weapon unconcealed and in any location?
6. Should guns be banned?

Politics

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 Should the Affordable Health Care Act be repealed?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

College

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

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 Students Succeeds Act (ESSA)) 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 all students be drug tested?
8. If a school receives a cyberbullying report, should the school have the right to look through students' personal devices (cell phone, laptop, tablets, etc.) or personal social media accounts?
9. Should the legal age to drop out of school be changed?
10. Is it too easy to receive an "A" in classes?
11. Should discomfort excuse students from having to complete an assignment?
12. Do standardized tests measure abilities?
13. Should standardized tests be taken seriously?
14. Is standards-based grading more effective than traditional grading?
15. If a student breaks the law off school property, does the school have an obligation to punish the student?

Parenting and Childhood

1. Should the legal driving age be lowered?
2. Should the age of enlistment be lowered?
3. Are children more likely to be involved in legal wrongdoings when parents give them too much freedom?
4. Should parents have a right to discipline their children how they see fit?
5. Do we give children too many trophies?
6. Is modern culture ruining childhood?
7. Should Halloween costumes portray only "positive images"?
8. Should parents limit the amount of time spend on technological devices?
9. Should all children be granted an allowance?
10. Should single people still be allowed to adopt children?
11. Should parents pay children for good grades?
12. Is a child's room really theirs, or is it their parent's?
13. Should parents be expecting their children to do chores?

Parenting

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 Generation Z more self-centered than earlier generations?
2. Is Generation Z more "lazy" than earlier generations?
3. Do laws that ban offensive words make the world a better place?

Smoking/Vaping

1. Is vaping problem among teenagers?
2. Are methods like Chantix, nicotine gum, or the nicotine patch effective for quitting smoking long-term?
3. Is it ever fair or ethical for a company to not hire a candidate who smokes?

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. Are minimum wage jobs meant to be life-long careers?

Health/Medical

1. How should schools handle unvaccinated students?
2. Should physician-assisted suicide be legal in every state?
3. Should texting and driving be illegal 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. Should childhood vaccinations be mandatory for all people living in America?
8. Is there ever a viable reason to implore Cryonics?
9. Do parents have a right to choose the genetics of their children?
10. Should holistic medical treatments be the preferred first course of action for medical healthcare?
11. Should holistic medical treatments be covered by health insurance policies?
12. Should every eligible person be required to be an organ donor?

Climate Change

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?
9. Is the makeup industry destroying our environment?
10. How has Greta Thunberg impacted the environmental discussion?
11. Is global warming a real concern?
12. Should the US have pulled out of the Paris Agreement?

Nutrition/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 the family farm be preserved?

Misc.

1. Should big corporations keep their stores out of small towns?
2. Are websites, such as Amazon, killing small town business?
3. Should Americans be taught more about how to save money?
4. Is it possible to start out poor in this country, work hard, and become well-off?

Science

1. Should the world be concerned about climate change?
2. Should scientists try to help people beat old age so we can live longer lives?
3. Should scientists try to find a way for humans to live on another planet?
4. Should animals and/or insects have the same legal rights as humans?

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 LGBTQ community members be allowed in the military?
7. Should women be allowed to be in combat roles?
8. Are there enough benefits to join the military?

Don't like any of these options?

You should be passionate and interested about your topic, so feel free to present a different option. Your topic needs to be something that you can argue, meaning it must have more than one side. When you present your topic idea, know the side you will argue as well as an opposing side. Be ready to answer questions!