

# SIRS® Issues Researcher

## Leading Issues

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### RESEARCH TIP:

#### ✓ *Picking a Topic*

It's important to choose something that is interesting to you and also meets the requirements of your project.



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Abortion	Battered Women	Controversial Mascots
Abortion, Moral and Ethical aspects	Beauty Pageants	Convicted Felons' Rights
Abstinence	Bioethics and Cloning	Copyright Infringement
Abstinence and AIDS Prevention	Biomedical Technology	Cosmetic Surgery
Abstinence Education	Bioterrorism	Criminal Justice
Access to Contraception	Birth Control	Cults
Acculturation and Assimilation	Birth Control Availability	Curfew
Adoption	Black Market	Cyberbullying
Advertising	Body Image	Cybercrime
Advertising and Children	Bulimia	Cybersocializing
Advertising in Schools	Bullying	Darfur/Sudan Conflict
Affirmative Action	Business Ethics	Dating Violence/Date Rape
AIDS	Campaign Funds	Death Penalty/Capital Punishment
AIDS in Africa	Capital Punishment	Democracy
Alcohol Use	Cell Phones in School	Discrimination in Criminal Justice Administration
Alcoholism	Censorship	Divorce
Alternative Education	Character Education	Domestic Terrorism
Alternative Energy Sources	Cheating	Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
Alternative Medicine	Child Abuse	Doping in Sports
Animal Cloning	Child Care	Downloading
Animal Cruelty	Child Labor	Drilling for Oil
Animal Experimentation	Child Sexual Abuse	Drug Control
Animal Rights	Children's Online Protection Laws	Drug Legalization
Anonymous Egg and Sperm Donation	Church and State	Drug Testing
Anorexia	Civil Rights	Drunk Driving
Anti-Immigrant Movement	Clean Coal	Eating Disorders
Arts Censorship	Climate Change	Economic Policy, U.S.
Assisted Suicide	Cloning	Education Policy
Athletes' Pay	Commercial Whaling	Educational Tests and Measurements
Bailout	Conflict Diamonds	Election Issues
Banned Books	Conservation of Natural Resources	
	Consumer Privacy	

***“How has this Leading Issue affected communities in other states or countries where my family or friends live?”***

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

#### **✓ Essential Questions**

Essential Questions with answers and viewpoints will help you understand the specific question under debate for each issue.

- |                                          |                                          |                                      |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Electoral College                        | Genetically Modified Foods               | International Space Station          |
| Emergency Contraception                  | Genocide                                 | International Trade                  |
| Endangered Species                       | Global Financial Crisis                  | International War on Drugs           |
| Energy Dependency                        | Global Warming                           | Internet Censorship                  |
| Environmentalism                         | Globalization                            | Internet Gambling                    |
| Ethics and Criminal Behavior             | Globalization, Moral and Ethical Aspects | Internment                           |
| Ethnic Relations                         | Green Movement                           | Interracial Adoption                 |
| European Union                           | Gun Control                              | Iraq War                             |
| Euthanasia                               | Gun Safety                               | Islamic Fundamentalism               |
| Experimental AIDS Treatment              | Hate Crimes                              | Israeli/Palestinian Conflict         |
| Factory Farms                            | Health Care                              | Jobs for Immigrants                  |
| Fad Diets                                | Health Care Reform                       | Journalism and School Censorship     |
| Fair Trade                               | Health Insurance for Eating Disorders    | Jury System                          |
| Family                                   | Herbal Supplements                       | Juvenile Delinquency                 |
| Famine                                   | Holocaust Denial                         | Life on Other Planets                |
| Fantasy Sports Leagues                   | Homelessness                             | Lobbying                             |
| Federal Government and Economic Policy   | Homelessness, International              | Local Food Movement                  |
| Federal Regulation of Prescription Drugs | Homeschooling                            | Marijuana Legalization               |
| Filtering Software                       | Homework                                 | Mass Media                           |
| First Amendment and Privacy              | Human Cloning                            | Media Bias                           |
| First Amendment and Censorship           | Human Reproductive Technology            | Medical Ethics                       |
| Food and Nutrition                       | Human Rights                             | Medical Malpractice                  |
| Food Safety                              | Human Rights, Universal                  | Medical Marijuana                    |
| Freedom of Religion                      | Human Smuggling                          | Medical Practice Regulation          |
| Freedom of Speech                        | Human Trafficking                        | Mental Depression                    |
| Freedom of the Press                     | Hunting                                  | Mental Health                        |
| Gambling                                 | Identity Cards                           | Merit Pay for Teachers               |
| Gangs                                    | Identity Theft                           | Military Recruiting                  |
| Gay Adoption                             | Illegal Immigration                      | Minimum Wage                         |
| Gay Liberation Movement                  | Immigration                              | Mixed Martial Arts/Ultimate Fighting |
| Gay Rights                               | Interfaith Movement                      | Mortgage and Lending Issues          |
| Genetic Engineering                      | International Adoption                   | Music Lyrics                         |
| Genetic Testing                          | International Monetary Fund              | National Security and Privacy        |
|                                          |                                          | Natural Disasters                    |

No Child Left Behind Act	Reporters and Shield Laws	Taxation
Nuclear energy	Right of Privacy	Teaching of Evolution
Nuclear Weapons	Rights of Non-Mainstream Religions	Technology
Obesity	Same-Sex Marriage	Technology and Privacy
Organ Donation	School Discipline and Corporal Punishment	Teenage Pregnancy
Organic Food	School Prayer	Teenage Sexual Behavior
Outsourcing	School Safety	Teenagers, Civil Rights
Overpopulation	School Shootings	Teenagers, Suicidal Behavior
Ozone Depletion	School Uniforms	Teens and Cosmetic Surgery
Parentage, Right to Know	School Vouchers	Teens and Driving
Parental Consent for Abortion	Second Amendment and Right to Bear Arms	Terrorism
Partial Birth Abortion	Sex Education	Title IX
Patients' Rights	Single Parents	Tobacco Advertising
Paying for Grades	Single-Sex Schools/Classrooms	Tobacco Regulation
Plastic Surgery	Smokeless Tobacco	Torture
Pollution	Smoking	Treatment of Prisoners
Polygamy	Smoking Bans	U.S. Foreign Aid
Popular Culture	Social Security Reform	U.S. War on Drugs
Pornography	Solar Energy	Underage Drinking
Poverty	Sovereignty	Underground Economy
Poverty, International	Space Exploration & Travel	Unemployment
Prescription Drug Advertising	Space Missions	United Nations
Privacy in Schools	Space Vehicles	Vegetarianism
Privacy in the Workplace	Sports	Violence in Mass Media
Privacy Rights for Teenagers	State Lotteries	Voting Age
Privatization	Stem Cells	Voting Fraud
Property Rights	Stock Markets	War
Prostitution	Student Expression and School Discipline	War Crimes/War Criminals
Racial Discrimination	Student-Athlete Compensation	War on Terror
Racial Profiling	Substance Abuse	Water Use
Rape (Dating Violence)	Suicide	Weapons of Mass Destruction
Recycling	Surrogacy	Web 2.0
Religion	Sweatshops	Welfare
Religion in the Public Sphere	Tax Exemptions for Religious Organizations	Women's Rights
Religious Fundamentalism		Work and Family
Renewable Energy		Workplace Discrimination
		Zero-Tolerance Policies
		Zoos



**RESEARCH TIP:**  
 ✓ **Target Audience**  
 Understanding characteristics of your target audience can influence your topic choice. Try to present a topic that is meaningful and interesting to your audience.