

# Research Database Tips

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## Databases for Current Issues

Students in many areas of study are often asked to support a position on a current issue. This can be in the form of writing a persuasive paper or taking sides in a classroom debate. Wor-Wic subscribes to several databases which are designed to carefully examine both sides of potentially controversial issues.

### ***Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context***

Provides topic overviews and articles on social issues and current event topics, including statistics, government data, primary documents, legislation, and more. The primary focus is on issues of interest to people in the United States and Canada.

Use the search box at the top of the page or to look at issues the editors have chosen to cover in depth click the *Issues* tab at the top of the page. This takes you to a large number of popular subjects. Choose any issue from the list that appeals to you and click on the link. When the results appear, you will find a topic overview and links to Video, Images, and Audio sources. To print, email, or cite an article, use the icons under Tools.

At the bottom of the results page, Gale divides possible sources into categories and gives a few samples of available articles with a link to additional articles of the same type.

1. Featured Viewpoints (from Gale's *Opposing Viewpoints* Series of books)
2. Viewpoints (from Gale's *Opposing Viewpoints* Series of books)
3. Reference (from reference books)
4. News (from newspapers)
5. Magazines
6. Academic Journals
7. Statistics
8. Primary Sources
9. Websites (reviewed by editors for appropriate content)

### ***Global Issues in Context***

Provides background information and explanations of the impact of global issues and events; includes material from international periodicals, primary sources, multimedia sources and more. *Global Issues in Context* is published by Gale and has similar content to *Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context* with emphasis placed on issues of international importance.

Use the basic search box at the top of the page or click [view all](#) in the Browse Issues and Topics section. This takes you to a large number of popular subjects. Choose any issue from the list that interests you and click on the link. You will see results listed in the following categories with links to additional articles of the same type. Provides videos, images, world map, research tools, and educator resources which includes a lesson plan builder.

1. Overview of topic
2. Reference
3. Statistics
4. News
5. Magazines
6. Academic Journals
7. Podcasts
8. Primary Sources
9. Get Involved (links to world organizations involved in the issue)
10. Websites (screened for accuracy)

The main page also gives you the opportunity to search world news or search videos.

### ***Points of View Reference Center***

Provides subject overviews and arguments presenting multiple sides of current issues; includes essays, articles from magazines and newspapers, radio and TV news manuscripts, primary source documents, reference books, and images. It is very easy to use, features an In the Spotlight topic, and provides helpful Research Guides.

Use the search box at the top of the page or look at popular topics the editors have chosen by clicking on the *View All Topics* tab directly underneath the search box. Choose a topic from the list that appeals to you and click on the link.

Search results are divided by type under tabs at the top of the page. Available types of materials are:

1. Points of View (from the *Points of View* book series)
2. Periodicals (from magazines and journals)
3. Newspapers
4. Biographies (sometimes)
5. Radio and TV News Transcripts
6. Primary Source Documents
7. Images
8. Videos

### ***SIRS Issues Researcher***

Analysis and opinions covering the pros and cons of current major issues; contains relevant documents, statistics, and multimedia with global perspectives.

Use the search box at the top of the page or look at popular topics the editors have decided to examine in more depth by clicking on the *A-Z List* link under the search box. Choose a topic from the list that appeals to you and click on the link.

When the search results appear, you will find a Topic Overview and a Pro/Con Issues and Essential Questions section at the top of the page. Search results appear down the middle of the page after these sections. All results are listed together regardless of type of source. They may be separated into types of sources by clicking on the source types listed in a box to the left of the results. Available sources are:

1. Newspapers
2. Magazines
3. Viewpoints
4. Reference
5. Graphics/Media

Directly underneath the Topic Overview section, you will find a section labeled Research Tools. In this section you will find the following:

1. Topic Overview (Includes Topic Overview and Pro/Con and Essential Questions on the same page)
2. Timeline (important dates and events related to the topic)
3. Global Impact
4. Statistics
5. My Analysis (key questions to consider)
6. Notes Organizer (provides help in organizing your thoughts)

### ***GREENR: Global Reference on the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources***

*GREENR* is the newest addition to Wor-Wic's many databases. It is dedicated to information and opinions on the environment, energy, and natural resources. It should be very helpful to those enrolled in the Environmental Science and Environmental Energy Technology programs. However, many students in other fields are very interested in the environment and could make good use of this resource as well.

Use the basic search box at the top of the page or click view all in the Browse Issues and Topics section. This takes you to a large number of popular subjects. Choose any topic from the list and click on the link. You will see results listed in the following categories with links to additional articles of the same type, videos, and images.

1. Overview
2. Academics Journals

3. Statistics
4. News
5. Magazines
6. Primary Sources
7. Reference
8. Case Studies
9. Podcasts
10. Websites and Blogs
11. Get Involved (What you can do)
12. Conference Presentations and Reports

On the main page of the site you also have the opportunity to use separate search boxes to find only videos, case studies, or Academic Journals and News.