

Research Topics Ideas

Education

- Charter Schools - Is there a benefit/advantage over public schools?
- College Tuition Costs - Is the price becoming prohibitive? Should state colleges be free for in-state residents to attend?
- College Athletes - Should college athletes be paid to perform?
- Education Reform (keeping U.S. competitive) - what reforms are needed/not needed? What is the solution?
- Financial Aid and drug convictions - should drug screening be required before you receive financial aid?
- For-profit public schools - do they work? Are they better?
- School Vouchers - Should states allow school vouchers?
- Standardized testing - Does it help or hinder education?
- Teacher Unions - Are they needed? Do they help or hinder?
- Year-round education - What are the benefits/disadvantages?
- Testing - Should students be required to pass a basic skills test to graduate?

Entertainment

- Broadcast decency rules - should they be stricter? What is the best way to enforce?
- Celebrity rights to privacy - what rights do they have?
- Censorship: book, video's, or movies - should books be banned? should there be warning labels? Who decides on age appropriateness?
- Digital Divide - what is the best way to confront the digital divide (people who have internet/computers and those who don't)
- Internet Filtering - should it be allowed? Britain just passed a law saying all internet will be filtered to protect against people younger than 18 seeing pornography. Are they on the right track?
- Internet Regulation - Should the internet be regulated against unlawful acts/services. For example, a site called Silk Road was recently shut down after federal authorities discovered it was selling illegal drugs and other banned substances.
- Internet Taxation - Should online stores be required to charge tax?
- Media Bias - How is media bias affecting politics? What is the harm from media bias? Should Media Bias be allowed?
- Media Violence - Should violence be censored? When is it too much?
- Reality Television - Is it harmful for the people involved? Should Reality TV be increased? What about shows like Honey Boo Boo and Toddlers & Tiara's?
- Social Networking websites: okay for young kids?
- Video games and violence - Is there a problem? Is there a link between playing violent video games and committing crime? Should video game violence be

censored? Do warning labels and parental guides work?

Environment

- Alternative Fuels: Should government invest in research? Is alternative fuels necessary? Which alternative fuels should be used?
- Natural Resource Conservation (going green) - Should people be required to go green? Is the EPA too powerful or not powerful enough?
- Genetically Modified Food - Is it safe?
- Global Warming - Is it man-made? What impact will it have on the future?
- Peak-oil theory - Is the world about to run out of oil?
- National Power Grid Dependency - How can cities and consumers cut their dependency? Is the National Power Grid about to fail?
- Wind Farms - Are they a benefit or a harm to the environment?

Family

- Adoption - Should gays be allowed to adopt? Should single people be allowed to adopt?
- American values: What is the importance of family? What is the importance of religion?
- Birth Order - Does the birth order (first, middle, last child) affect personality? Studies have been done proposing birth order dictates choices a person makes later in life? Does birth order affect a person's intelligence?
- Same-Sex Marriage Legalization - Should it be legalized nationally?
- Assault Weapons - Should all assault weapons be allowed? Should there Brady Law be activated again?
- Capital Punishment - Should it be legal?
- Class-action lawsuits: Should there be a money limit?
- Creative sentencing : Should there be alternatives to prison sentencing terms?
- Cyberbullying : Should a teenager be punished for cyberbullying? What laws need to be enacted? What is the best way to prevent cyberbullying?
- Distracted Driving : Should cell phones be used when driving? How dangerous is texting and driving?
- Drug testing in the workplace/school : Should there be mandatory drug testing in schools? For sports? In workplaces?
- Gun Industry Lawsuits : Should people or states be allowed to sue the gun industry over a crime committed? Should the gun industry be held responsible in mass shootings?
- Homeland Security : Is the Patriot Act needed or does it go too far?
- NSA Spying: Should the government be allowed to spy on internet traffic to prevent terrorism?

- Illegal Immigration/Border Control : What is the solution? Should someone support the Dream Act?
- Kansas issue: Should judges be elected or appointed?
- Military Documents (Wikileaks) What documents should the public have a right to know?
- Property-Rights Law : Should cities or the government be allowed to use Eminent Domain?
- Separation of church and state : Should religion be allowed to justify or be used against a law? Should the rules regarding separation of church and state be increased/decreased?
- Teenage Drivers : is a Graduating driver's license the way to go?
- Texting Bans: are they working
- Tort Reform : Should there be tort reform?
- Women in the military : Should women be allowed to serve on the front lines?

Medicine/Health

- Addiction : Imprisonment or Rehab?
- Alternative medicine : Are they beneficial or harmful? Should they be regulated?
- Animal rights vs. medical research : Should medical research facilities continue to do research on animals?
- Ban on McDonald Toys (unless McD adds healthy meals)
- Candy and Sweets: Should students be allowed to sell candy and sugary soft drinks in school to make money?
- Cancer Screening: when to start and how often
- Drug costs: when does the cost of a drug become too much for the benefits. Should drug companies offer a reduced price for people who are on a limited budget?
- Drug Patents and Developing Countries : Should companies be allowed to market drugs to developing countries. For example, Nestle markets breast formula to people living in developed countries as better than breast milk causing some mothers to stop nursing only to discover they can not afford to continue purchasing the expensive formula.
- Fast-Food Litigation: Should fast-food companies be required to change the menu like cut back on amount of salt they use like proposed in New York or use less fat?
- Healthcare Reform: Affordable Care Act----good or bad?.
- Health food in school vending machines: Should schools only allow healthy food in vending machines? Should vending machines be allowed/not allowed in schools?
- Long-term effects on concussions : Should the NFL be held responsible for the health of football players suffering from concussions? What are the impact or safety issues regarding concussions and sports?
- Medical Malpractice : Should there be a monetary limit?

- Obesity : Should obesity be considered a medical illness? Should schools screen students for obesity?
- Use of mood or behavior-altering medications to treat depression, ADHD, ect.
- Regulation of new prescription drugs, vitamins, ect. : Should the government regulate vitamins? Should regulations be tightened for new prescription drugs - even if they could save a life tomorrow?
- Required PE in all schools : Should all students be required to participate in P.E. every day?
- Reproductive Technology : Should In-vitro transplants be allowed? Should people be allowed to screen fertilized eggs for genetic defaults before implanting? Should genetic manipulation be allowed?
- Smoking Ban: is it working?
- Stem-cell Research : Should it be allowed?
- Teens and Cosmetic Surgery : Should teenagers be allowed to have plastic surgery for cosmetic reasons? How young is too young for cosmetic surgery?
- Use of performance enhancing drugs or supplements among athletes : Should they be banned? Should all athletes, including HS athletes, be tested?
- Vitamin benefits : Is there a benefit to taking daily vitamins?

Money/Income

- Advertising in America: What impact does it have on consumers? Are advertising companies promoting sexual stereotypes to young children?
- Business Regulations : Should there be more or less regulation of companies?
- Corporate Greed : How to address corporate greed? Should CEO salaries be a percentage of the average workers salary?
- Economy: Should the government tax junk foods? How can the government improve the economy? Do tax breaks for corporations help or hinder a city?
- Executive Pay/Bonuses : Should there be a limit on CEO bonuses?
- Flat Tax : Would a flat tax be good or bad for the country?
- Tax Cuts : Do they help or hinder?
- Wage Gap: The poverty rate is increasing, the gap between the top 25% of all wage earners and the rest is widening even more.....less middle class. Solutions?
- Welfare Reform : What is needed to reform welfare? Should welfare recipients be required to take monthly/yearly drug test?

Politics

- Affirmative Action: Is Affirmative action still needed in our country?
- Bush Tax Cuts : Did they help or hinder the economy?
- Compulsory Voting : Should everyone be required to vote?
- Funeral Protests: free speech or harassment
- Internet Voting or U.S. Election Monitors: Should voting be done electronically?

- Judicial Filibusters : Should politicians use judicial filibusters? Should the politician be allowed to filibuster an appointee privately?
- Juvenile Justice System : How can it be reformed?
- Official English laws : Should English be required as the official/only language in the U.S.?
- Political Talk Radio : Should it be allowed? What harm is political talk radio doing to our country? Should political talk radio be regulated?
- Presidential elections, electoral college reform, misuse of power
- Skilled-Worker Visas : Should illegal immigrants be allowed to have an extended visa to perform certain jobs?
- TARP : Good or bad?
- Tea Party Movement: Good or bad?
- Term Limits : Needed or not?
- U.S. Foreign Policy : Should the government stop payments to the Syria government? Should the government help the Syria rebels? Are imposed sanctions working in North Korea?
- War on Terrorism : Is the United States winning the war on terrorism? What needs to be done to combat the war on terrorism?

Science

- Alternative Fuels : Are they beneficial to the environment? Are they needed?
- Biotechnology: Should gene therapy be allowed? Should human cloning be allowed? Should genetically modified food be allowed?
- Space: Should NASA funding be increased or decreased?

Sports

- College sports: cost of a sports program versus educational programs
- Do private schools have an unfair advantage in sports than public school
- Native American Sports Mascots : Should their names change? For example, does the Redskins need to change their name/mascot?
- Professional Basketball Dress Code : Should it be required?
- Professional Sports Salaries : Should there be a limit?
- Sports-Stadium Funding : Should the owners or the tax-payers fund the cost of new stadiums?
- Student Athlete Compensation : Should college athletes be paid or allowed to receive money for their performance?
- Title IX : Is it needed?
- Should schools implement pay-to-play? (require students to pay a fee if they want to play a sport)

Banned Topics

- Abortion
- Legalization of Drugs
- Evolution/Creationism