

Controversial Issues for Research Paper

1. Online Social Networking

Do the positive aspects of social networking sites outweigh the negatives?

YES

Online social networks provide new opportunities for developing and maintaining social and work relationships.

NO

Revealing private information on social networking sites is foolish and can be dangerous, especially for young people

2. Obesity -

Is more government regulation the answer to the obesity epidemic?

YES

Government regulation is the answer to combating the obesity epidemic.

NO

Obesity is a matter of personal responsibility.

3. School Uniforms -

Should students be required to wear uniforms?

YES

School uniforms can help improve behavior and reduce peer pressure.

NO

Uniforms infringe upon students' First Amendment right to freedom of expression

4. Paying for Grades -

Should students be paid for good grades?

YES

Incentives can motivate students to learn.

No

Paying students sends the wrong message about learning.

5. Gun Control

Should gun regulations be tightened?

YES

Tighter regulations are needed to reduce gun-related violence.

NO

Tighter regulations interfere with an individual

6. Doping in Sports

Should athletes be allowed to take performance-enhancing substances?

YES

Athletes should be free to improve their performances as they see fit.

NO

The use of performance-enhancing drugs damages the integrity of sports.

7. Human Cloning -

Should human cloning be banned?

YES

Human cloning should not be permitted under any circumstances.

NO

Human cloning has potential benefits and should be allowed.

8. Abortion -

Should women have the right to an abortion?

YES

Women should have the right to an abortion.

NO

A fetus is a human being and has a right to life.

9. Bullying -

Are the anti-bullying strategies used by schools successful?

YES

School anti-bullying programs are bringing the problem into the open.

NO

Bullying is getting worse and stronger action is needed

10. Capital Punishment -

Is capital punishment necessary?

YES

Capital punishment deters crime and gives closure to families of victims.

NO

Capital punishment has not been proven to deter crime and it opens the possibility of executing innocent people.

11. Global Warming -

Are human activities causing global warming?

YES

Human activities, such as greenhouse gas emissions, are causing global warming.

NO

Global warming is the result of a cyclical change in the weather.

12. Animal Experimentation -

Should animals be used for biomedical research?

YES

The use of animals for biomedical research is needed in order to seek advances in human health.

NO

Animal testing is not necessary and leads to the suffering and death of millions of animals.

13. Homeschooling -

Does the government have the right to monitor homeschooling?

YES

Many parents are unqualified to teach.

NO

Parents should be able to decide how to educate their own children.

14. Homework –

Should homework be abolished?

YES

Homework disrupts family time.

NO

Homework helps improve academic performance.

15. Outsourcing -

Does outsourcing hurt the economy?

YES

Outsourcing leads to a higher unemployment rate and a lower standard of living.

NO

Outsourcing results in more affordable products and services.

16. Controversial mascots

Should schools and sports organizations ban the use of controversial mascots and nicknames?

Yes

Some mascots are racially insensitive and offensive

No

These mascots are symbols meant to honor a culture or tradition

17. Fracking -

Should the use of fracking to extract oil and natural gas be expanded?

Yes

Fracking should be expanded because it will help reduce dependence on foreign sources of oil

No

Fracking should not be expanded due to the risks it poses to the environment

18. Cell phones in schools -

Should cell phones be allowed in schools?

YES

Cell phones have legitimate uses in schools.

NO

Cell phones have no place in the classroom.

19. Cheerleading considered a sport -

Should cheerleading be considered a sport?

Yes	No
Cheerleading requires rigorous training and technical skills.	Cheerleading is an activity for supporting athletes.

20. Common Core

Will the Common Core Standards improve the quality of education in the U.S.?

YES	NO
The Common Core Standards will bring needed reforms to our troubled education system.	The Common Core Standards will lead to more problems in our education system.

21. Tougher laws for cell phones/texting while driving -

Are tougher laws needed to combat distracted driving?

YES	NO
All states need to enact laws prohibiting activities such as texting and cell phone use while driving.	The emphasis should be on educating people about the dangers of distracted driving.

22. Tax on junk food -

Should junk food be taxed to discourage consumption?

YES	NO
Taxing junk foods will decrease consumption of unhealthy foods and decrease obesity rates.	Taxing junk foods imposes a Nanny State on individuals and punishes those who consume junk foods in moderation.

23. Helicopter Parents -

Do helicopter parents cause harm to their children's development?

YES	NO
Helicopter parents are too involved in the lives of their children and don't allow them to make their own decisions.	Children whose parents are intensely involved in their lives are better adjusted than those whose parents are not involved.

24. Tanning salon ban for minors

Should a federal ban against the use of tanning salons by minors be enacted?

YES	NO
Banning minors from tanning salons would reduce their risk of health problems, including skin cancer.	Banning minors from tanning salons infringes on their personal freedoms

25. The zoo controversy

Should animals be kept in zoos?

YES	NO
Many zoos have conservation programs that protect these animals.	Animals should remain in their natural habitat.