

(Make sure to be persuasive not informative!)

Persuasive Paper Topics

- Abortion
- Adoption
 - Should adoption rulings be reversed (i.e. Baby Richard)?
 - Should interracial adoption be allowed?
 - Should single parents be allowed to adopt?
 - Should gay couples be allowed to adopt?
 - When is a parent too old to adopt?
 - Should foreign adoptions be encouraged/allowed?
- Alcohol
 - Is advertising liquor on television and radio irresponsible?
 - Do television liquor ads promote underage drinking?
 - Is Alcoholics Anonymous effective?
 - Do children of alcoholics benefit from recovery groups?
- American History
 - Are women and African Americans treated fairly in American history textbooks?
 - Was the Salem Witchcraft hysteria caused by a fear of women?
 - Was the Mexican War an exercise in American imperialism?
 - Have historians overemphasized the slavery issue as a cause of the Civil War?
 - Was the New Deal an effective answer to the Great Depression?
 - Was it necessary to drop the atomic bomb at the end of WWII?
 - Did the antiwar movement prolong the war in Vietnam?
 - Was Christopher Columbus a hero?
- Animal Rights
 - Should animals be used for experimentation and research?
 - Should pets be neutered?
 - Is a vegetarian life style healthier than eating meat harmful?
 - Is hunting an animal morally acceptable?
 - Do zoos preserve endangered species?
- Cloning
 - Is cloning of humans ethical?
- Consumerism
 - Is consumerism killing the earth?
 - Are Americans becoming too materialistic?
 - Has the increase of large chain stores such as Wal-Mart been beneficial to consumers and their communities?
- Crime and Criminals
 - Does community-based policing prevent crime?
 - Should violent juvenile criminals be tried as adults?
 - Can prison boot camps reform young criminals?
 - Do victims' rights threaten defendants' rights?
 - Should tough laws target gangs?
 - Is juvenile crime a serious problem in the schools?
 - Does television violence contribute to juvenile crime?
- Dress Codes
 - Are student dress codes a violation of civil rights?
 - Do student uniforms affect the culture of a school?

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- Driving
 - Should school dropouts lose their driver's licenses?
 - Should the age requirement for driving be raised to 18?
 - Should drivers be fined for using cell phones while driving?
 - How should drunk drivers be punished?
- Drug Abuse
 - Should pregnant addicts be prosecuted?
 - Should the war on drugs be abandoned?
 - Should employees be tested for drugs?
 - Are the D.A.R.E. programs and other anti-drug programs effective?
 - Should students' lockers and belongings be searched for drugs?
 - Should student athletes be drug tested?
- Eating and Food
 - Are Americans eating themselves to death?
 - Is vegetarianism a healthier way of life?
 - Is eating meat a moral way of life?
 - Is milk consumption harmful?
 - Are vitamin supplements beneficial?
 - Should restaurants be required to have nutritional information?
- Environmental Preservation
 - Is consumerism killing the earth?
 - Should recycling be required?
 - Is global warming a serious threat?
 - Are electric cars a good strategy for reducing air pollution?
 - Is America's drinking water safe?
 - Is nuclear power a viable energy source?
 - Is the EPA effective?
- Euthanasia
 - The case for or against assisted suicide
 - Do people have the right to die?
 - Do hospices provide the best care for the dying?
 - Are living wills beneficial?
 - Should physician-assisted suicide be legalized?
- Hate Crimes
 - Should there be special laws against hate crimes?
 - Should hate speech be tolerated?
- Health Care and Insurance
 - Should the government provide health coverage for everyone?
 - Has managed care hurt patients' rights?
 - Should health care be so expensive?
 - Are mental disorders the same as other diseases and should they be funded equally?
 - Is plastic surgery safe or necessary?
 - Are there too many specialist physicians in the health care system?
 - Is alternative medicine safe and effective?
- Holidays
 - Should we celebrate Columbus Day? Did he really discover America?
 - Should we celebrate Halloween?

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- Can we sing Christmas carols in school?
- Media
 - Does the press exploit private tragedy? (Princess Di, John F. Kennedy, Jr., etc.)
 - Is there too much violence in the media?
 - Are movie ratings effective in curbing violence?
 - Does television violence contribute to juvenile crime?
- Military and Defense
 - Should we reinstate the draft?
 - Should women be allowed to go to war?
 - Should gays be allowed in the military?
 - Should the U.S. retain a significant nuclear arsenal?
- Parenting
 - Should parents be held accountable for the actions of their children?
 - Should parents spank their children? (Corporal punishment)
 - Should male circumcision be commonplace?
 - Do working mothers harm children?
 - Does day cares harm children?
- Prisons
 - Should prisons rehabilitate criminals?
 - Do prisons create a criminal personality?
 - Will building more prisons solve prison overcrowding?
 - Can prison boot camps reform young criminals?
 - Should executions be televised?
- Rights of Children and Teenagers
 - Should children be allowed to divorce their parents?
 - Should parents be informed of college students' grades or behavior?
 - Should students' lockers and belongings be searched for drugs?
 - Should student athletes be drug tested?
- School Safety
 - School safety - how much is too much?
 - Is juvenile crime a serious problem in the schools?
- Sex Roles
 - Should men and women share domestic responsibilities?
 - Has women's increased participation in the work force harmed society?
 - Are women victims of discrimination in the workplace?
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- Smoking
 - Should smoking be banned in all restaurants?
- Space Exploration
 - Should the United States space shuttle program continue?
- Sports
 - Should professional athletes be looked at as role models?
 - Can competitive sports be unhealthy?
 - Should steroids be banned from sports?