Research a Controversial Issue

- **Finding controversial topics**
  - *CQ Researcher* (from the library’s database list or in print, REF H35. C67) on the Reference shelves is a great place to get ideas for a controversial topic. Each issue provides various viewpoints, detailed background information, chronologies, and bibliographies. If you have trouble choosing a topic, ask the librarian for assistance.

- **Forming an opinion or argument** (choose one approach)
  - Take a stance: be for or against something. For example, “marijuana should be legalized because…”
  - Argue the pros or cons of an issue. For example, “The death penalty deters crime by…”
  - Argue what should be done about an issue. For example, “the government should do more to lower Medicare drug costs by…”

- **Choosing pro/con sources:** what to look for in a good pro/con source.
  - **Date:** if you are looking for recent facts and statistics, your source of information should be current. You may need to put your topic within a historical context, in which case older material will be suitable.
  - **Biases:** Is this a reliable source of information? What is the agenda of the author?
  - **Level of Scholarship:** the quality of your research is important when articulating and defending an opinion or argument.

For this assignment you will need to:
1. Choose a controversial issue
2. Form an opinion or argument concerning your topic
3. Write a XX word paper that articulates your stance and supports your argument.
4. Your bibliography should have at least 3 resources. Of these resources, you must include,
   - One resource with an opposing viewpoint
   - At least one scholarly source of information from a book or journal

**Suggested Topics:**

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<th>• Immigration Laws</th>
<th>• Avian Flu Threat</th>
<th>• Intelligent Design</th>
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<td>• Presidential Power</td>
<td>• Future of Feminism</td>
<td>• War on Iraq</td>
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<td>• Rebuilding New Orleans</td>
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