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What is *Points of View (POV) Reference Center*?

Containing resources that present multiple sides of an issue, this database provides the basis from which students can realize and develop persuasive arguments and essays, better understand controversial issues, and develop analytical thinking skills.

How do I use *Points of View*?

Instructional guides and clear interface links lead the user from an alphabetical topic list to the select *Points of View* (POV) results tab. This tab provides a background Overview essay, as well as Point and Counterpoint essays.

Additionally, selected articles, readily available images, and links to other resources enhance the global information surrounding each topic. The Guides to Critical Analysis on each topic assist in understanding the issue and the creation of a position paper or debate argument.

This guided navigation lends itself to a successful search experience and positive learning outcome for both the first-time and the experienced researcher.

What content is included in *Points of View*?

Points of View (POV) includes coverage of 343 controversial topics, each with:

- Foundation articles: Overview, Point, Counterpoint essays
- Guide to Critical Analysis
- Questions for evaluation to build higher-level thinking
- Editor-selected articles, biographies, images, primary source documents

- Research Guides to debate, developing arguments, writing position papers, preparing for research, assessing sources

All essays exemplify good position paper structure. They help researchers to understand an issue by including a clear summary, thesis, as well as questions for further study and understanding.

In addition, *Points of View* includes thousands of supporting articles from the world's top political and societal publications, providing a backdrop for further exploration of controversial topics. Clicking on a topic automatically searches these publications, ensuring the articles retrieved are relevant to the topic selected. This collection complementing the foundation essays is comprised of proprietary and licensed full text articles. Instructional materials help researchers better understand the controversies. Emphasis is placed upon guiding readers to develop analytical thinking skills, and to prepare persuasive arguments and debates. Additionally, *Points of View* includes over 3,000 full text sources for further research. This includes:

- 126 top social and political periodicals – cover to cover
- 220 periodicals from which thousands of selective articles are chosen
- 1,172 primary source documents for further study
- 673 reference books
- 380 country reports
- 322 related biographies
- 576 newspapers
- 539,783 images
- 2,338 streaming videos from the Video Encyclopedia of the Twentieth Century

How often is *Points of View* content updated?

New topics are added to *Points of View* (POV) on a quarterly basis. Licensed content — including periodicals, newspapers, and images — is updated twice daily. An annual update occurs to ensure that content and bibliographic citations are current.

What happens when I click on a topic from the tree list?

Points of View (POV) essays are a starting point for deeper research. Clicking on a topic brings you directly to the Overview essay. From there, you can access Point and Counterpoint essays, as well as the Guide to Critical Analysis and other resources located in the Related Items side bar.

- Overview - background that provides a neutral starting point of reference
- Point - present son argument or side
- Counterpoint - presents an opposing argument
- Guide to Critical Analysis - directs students to delve deeper into the topic, discern fact from opinion, compare and contrast, research for other perspectives, and formulate opinions.

What features are contained in the Related Items sidebar of every Overview essay?

The *Points of View* (POV) sidebar contains:

- Easy access to Overview, Point, Counterpoint, Guide to Critical Analysis

- What the Experts Say - Expert and authoritative opinions can be found under “What the Experts Say” in the sidebar, and on any of the other source tabs returned with a search. Unique to products of this kind, *Points of View* features only the most relevant articles and materials.
- Instructional Research Guides - Both students and instructors can use these guides to build skills in writing position papers, develop debate technique, and heighten critical thinking skills. Topics include:
 1. Choosing a Topic
 2. Evaluating a Website
 3. Writing a Topic Sentence
 4. How to Understand the Bias of a Publication
- Related images
- Related articles chosen by editors
- Curriculum Standards

Do *Points of View* essays contain end notes and bibliographies?

Points of View (POV) provides a Bibliography section for each of its proprietary essays. This provides students with a selection of books, periodicals, and websites consulted by the authors during their research. These Bibliography references are listed to provide topic-specific, in-depth information to students who wish to examine a topic in greater detail. These sources contain valid information and offer a historical perspective on issues that are years, decades, and often centuries old.

Who are the authors of the *Points of View* Overview, Point, and Counterpoint essays?

The Overview, Point, and Counterpoint essays in the *Points of View* (POV) are created by professional writers and subject experts skilled in persuasive and research writing, language arts, and curriculum. Carefully constructed and extensively researched, these essays provide students with solid examples for writing their own persuasive essays and arguments. The Point and Counterpoint essays are opinion pieces; the goal is to present an idea only as it pertains to the viewpoint being expressed, and offer supporting bibliographic resources.

Points of View essays include study questions as well as links to articles providing information on "What the Experts Say" about an issue, and other related articles. All of this provides students with the broad background needed to place each issue in its proper context.

What is the positioning and balance of the *Points of View* essay content?

The *Points of View* (POV) essays were designed to present a balanced view of at least one aspect of a controversial issue as a springboard for further research, evaluation, formulation, and construction of one’s own argument or position on the issue. Each Overview provides basic facts, names, and figures on a topic. This provides students with a strong, yet neutral, starting point in their research. The Point and Counterpoint essays summarize viewpoints on the topic, using an objective perspective supported by sources. Each is an example of one viewpoint on a given issue meant to serve as a model for students in supporting an argument.

How does *Points of View* help develop key skills and essay or debate material?

Points of View (POV) includes several Research Guides that help develop skills in persuasive writing and position paper development, heighten critical thinking skills, and learn debate technique. These guides are useful for both students and teachers. They include:

- Choosing a Topic
- Writing a Thesis Statement
- Judging Fact vs. Opinion
- Evaluating a Website
- Writing a Topic Sentence
- Taking Good Notes
- From Notes to Outline
- Visual Ways to Organize Your Ideas
- Writing a Persuasive Essay
- Writing a Conclusion
- Citing Sources
- Creating a Bibliography
- Writing a Research Paper
- Giving an Oral Presentation
- Starting a Debate Club
- Debate Strategies

How does *Points of View* challenge critical thinking and encourage debate?

Because developing higher-level thinking skills and analytical acumen in students were the major goals for *Points of View* (POV), EBSCO studied curriculum standards during POV's development. Most specifically, EBSCO focused on history, science, and language arts standards. By doing this - historical, ethical and socio-political relevance, debate skills, and position paper writing are engrained into all aspects of *Points of View* - from the study guides (How To...) to the structure of the essays themselves.

Additionally, the importance of critical thinking skills was considered essential during the development of *Points of View*. The interface and essays were created with the intent of guiding students through the full scope of a controversial topic. Thus, each Point and Counterpoint essay concludes with a series of study questions called "Ponder This." To answer these questions, students must engage in analytical thought that further enables them to generate their own well-developed evaluation of an issue. This process provides students with the tools necessary to progress in creating their own critical stance for use in a position paper or as debate material. The instructional guides, especially the topic-specific Guides to Critical Analysis, also assist students in learning analytical skills.

What are Lexiles in *Points of View*?

Lexiles are numbers indicating the reading difficulty of an article. The number reflects difficulty based on the articles vocabulary and sentence length. Every article and essay in the *Points of View* (POV) database has a Lexile assigned to it.

The Lexile Measure was developed by Metametrics, Inc, an independent research and development firm focused on integrating assessment with instruction. Its goal is to provide educators with a tool to improve

the students' overall learning, specifically reading comprehension and math skills, by placing both the student and text on the same scale.

For more information, visit <http://www.lexile.com>.

To view the Lexile Rankings chart, click [here](#).

Which Search Screens are available in *Points of View*?

You can conduct a Basic Search from the *Points of View* home page. You can also conduct an Advanced Search, Browse by Category, or view featured articles in "In the News."

On *Points of View*, the default start page is always the Home Page. (There is no Choose Databases Screen on this interface). The Home Page Search always presents a Single Find Field.

What are the Categories in *Points of View*?

In *Points of View (POV)*, there are 33 categories representing over 343 of the topics most frequently researched. Some topic examples include affirmative action, arctic drilling, DNA profiling, HIV/AIDS disclosure, immigration, Iraq, Darfur, nuclear proliferation, separation of church and state, standardized testing, stem cell research, and tax cuts. The National Debate topic, nationally recognized as the top issue for debate in high school and college competitions, is included each year in *Points of View*.