



Points of View Reference Center

Description: Points of View Reference Center (POVRC) is an online database containing resources that present multiple sides of an issue. It provides rich content that can help students evaluate and construct persuasive arguments and essays, better understand controversial issues, and develop analytical thinking skills.

Audience: POVRC is targeted toward students in grades eight through early college.

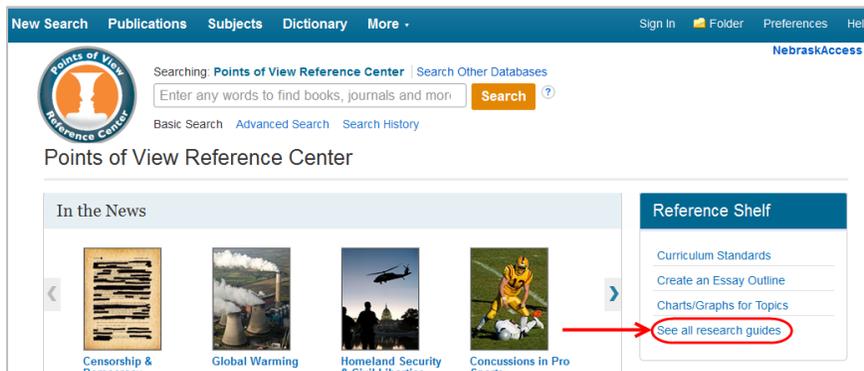
Licensed Content: Like many general interest periodical databases, POVRC licenses and delivers full text content from various third party publishers. In the case of POVRC, this includes:

- comprehensive coverage from top social and political periodicals
- selective coverage from additional periodicals
- books, newspapers, speeches, and other primary source documents
- charts, graphs, images, and videos

Proprietary Content: What makes POVRC unique, however, is its proprietary content, written specifically for inclusion in the database. This content includes:

- **Points of View (POV) Essays** – POVRC contains over 1,600 essays, covering 400+ controversial topics. For each topic there is an *Overview* essay, a *Point* essay (presenting one side of the issue), a *Counterpoint* essay (presenting an opposing position), and a *Guide to Critical Analysis*, designed to assist students in evaluating the topic.
- **Research Guides** – Research guides are not associated with specific topics. Instead, they offer advice to students on effective ways to conduct research, analyze arguments made by others and persuasively present their own opinions, both verbally and in writing. POVRC includes research guides on close to 20 topics, including:
 - Giving an Oral Presentation
 - Writing a Topic Sentence
 - Choosing a Topic
 - How to Understand the Bias of a Publication
 - Writing a Research Paper
 - Creating a Bibliography
 - Taking Good Notes
 - Writing a Thesis Statement
 - Judging Fact vs. Opinion

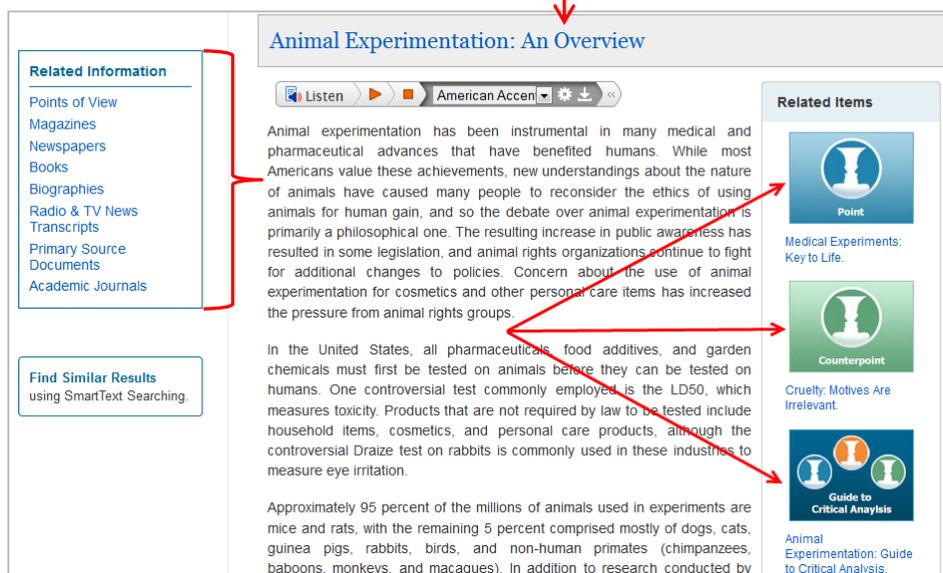
To retrieve a list of all research guides, click the “See all research guides” link in the Reference Shelf area of the POVRC home page:



Browse by Category: While it is possible to search for information in POVRC using the Basic or Advanced Search screens, the database is really designed for browsing. The “Browse by Category” section of the POVRC home page currently displays over 30 categories. Beneath each category heading is a bulleted list of three topics, plus a “More” link you can click on to display additional topics that fall under that category. To view an alphabetical list of all 400+ topics covered by POVRC, click “Show All” at the top right of the “Browse by Category” section.



Once students identify a topic they want to research further (e.g. *Animal Experimentation* under the *Animal Welfare* category), clicking on it will retrieve the POV “Overview” essay on the topic.



From this “Overview” essay, students can easily jump to additional information on the topic that will help them develop a deeper, more well-rounded understanding of the issues and controversies surrounding it.

To the right of the “Overview” essay, in the **Related Items** column, there will always be links to a “Point” essay, a “Counterpoint” essay, and a “Guide to Critical Analysis” on the topic. There may also be links to related images, charts, “What experts say...” articles, research guides and curriculum standards.

To the left of the “Overview” essay, in the **Related Information** column, there will always be a list of the types of source material included in the database (e.g., proprietary Points of View content, magazines, newspapers, books, etc.) Clicking on a source type link will launch a search for additional information on the topic, limited to that specific source type.