The One-Minute Mentor

How to search for information in the Issues and Controversies database

This tutorial will help you to find information about contemporary Pro/Con topics.
• From the library homepage, select “Databases.”
From the list of databases, scroll down and select “Issues and Controversies” from the list.
This resource is a great place to start when researching a hot topic. On the left-hand side of the screen are boxes to search by keyword, as well as by subject and by specific issue. In the “Special Features” box, you can also access editorial cartoons, editorials, charts and graphs to support your position. If you don’t have a topic in mind, you can get ideas from the “Need a Research Topic?” box.
As a sample search, we’ll choose the topic “U.S. Debt Crisis” from the “Issues in the Headlines” box.
The Debt Crisis issue is broken down into categories, as seen on this page. Both sides of the issue are summarized, and then you have access to a full explanation of the issue. Related resources are provided in the left-hand column of the page. Each report ends with a bibliography and search terms to further your research in other databases.

- The History of U.S. Public Debt and How It Works
- Debt Ceiling Debate Results in Downgrade
- Recent Anti-Debt Measures Necessary, Supporters Say
- Focus on Debt Misoguided, Critics Say
- Debt Reduction to Remain Focus in Washington
- Discussion Questions & Activities
- Bibliography
- Additional Sources
- Contact Information
- Key Words and Points

The issue: Is the U.S. government's recent focus on debt reduction necessary? Or should policy makers wait until unemployment is lower to focus on reducing the debt?

- Supporters of recent moves to reduce the debt say: The national debt is a major problem, and it must be reduced immediately. The recent deal struck by President Obama (D) and congressional Republicans will go a long way toward lessening the amount of money the country owes. As a result, policy makers in Washington will rightly focus on debt reduction for the foreseeable future.
- Critics of recent moves to reduce the debt say: The U.S. economy is in a shambles not because of the debt but because unemployment is high. Rather than focus on spending cuts, the government should spend money to help put people back to work. Interest rates on U.S. debt are very low, proving that the recent turmoil in global stock markets is caused by anxiety over a struggling economy, not the U.S. national debt.
Thanks for using the One-Minute Mentor tutorial series!

Questions? Contact us!

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