

Persuasive topic ideas

Because you will be both informing and persuading your audience simultaneously, it is important that you choose your subject matter carefully. Select a topic in which you have an interest

- We should do more to help battered women (or not).
- Capital punishment must be abolished (or not).
- The production of nuclear energy must be halted (or not).
- Abortion rights must be continued to be upheld (or not).
- We should have stricter handgun control (or not).
- More money should be spent on the homeless (or not).
- We must save the rainforest (or not).
- Animals should be used for medical research (or not).
- Marijuana should be legalized (or not).
- Adopted children should know the identity of their biological parents (or not).

Another site to check out with sources attached for the subjects

http://www.questia.com/Index.jsp?CRID=controversial_topics&OFFID=se1&KEY=Persuasive_paper_topics

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Persuasive Topics

Abortion * Acid Rain * Adoption * Advertising * Affirmative Action * An
Ageing Population * Aids * Alcohol * American Foreign Policy * American
History * Animal Rights * Birth Control * Body Art * Business * Capital
Punishment * Censorship * Child Abuse * Cloning * Consumerism * Crime
and Criminals * Discrimination * Dress Codes * Driver's License
Requirements * Dropouts * Drug Abuse * Drunk Driving * Eating and Food *
Education * Environmental Protection * Euthanasia * Evolution * Gambling *
Genetics * Gun Control * Hate Crimes * Health Care and Insurance * High
School Graduation Requirements * Holidays * Homeless * Homosexuality *
Hunting * Immigration * Land Use * Marijuana * Media * Military *
Motorcycles * Music * National Language * Parenting * Police Brutality *
Pornography * Prisons * Prostitution * Religion * Reproduction * Right to
Privacy * Rights of Children and Teenagers * School Safety * Sex Education *
Sex Roles * Smoking * Snowmobiling * Special Education * Sports * Tanning *
Terrorism * Transplants *

- **Abortion**
 - Should abortion be legal?
- **Acid Rain**
- **Adoption**
 - Should adoption rulings be reversed (i.e. Baby Richard)?
 - Should interracial adoption be allowed?
 - Should single parents or gays be allowed to adopt?
 - Should adoption records remain sealed?
 - When is a parent too old to adopt?
 - Should the orphanage system be reestablished?
 - Should foreign adoptions be encouraged?
- **Advertising**
 - Should beer advertising be banned from television?
- **Affirmative Action**
- **An Aging Population**
 - Will an aging population be harmful to America?
 - Should Social Security be rescued?
 - Is the outlook for retirees bleak?
 - Are nursing homes beneficial?
- **Aids**
- **Alcohol**
 - Should the health benefits of alcohol be promoted?
 - 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 Foreign Policy**
 - Should the United States force democracy upon other nations?
 - Does United States foreign aid harm other nations and/or the U.S.?
 - Should a permanent UN military force be established?
 - Should China be condemned as a violator of human rights?
 - Did the Persian Gulf War weaken the U.S.?
- **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 eating meat detrimental?
 - Is hunting animals morally acceptable?
 - Do zoos preserve endangered species?

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- **Birth Control**
 - Should condoms be distributed by schools?
 - What is the truth about RU-486? (Birth control pill)
- **Body Art**
- **Business**
 - Are CEO's paid too much?

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- **Capital Punishment**
 - **Death Penalty - Yes or No?**
 - **Should executions be televised?**
- **Censorship**
 - **Can a city ban offensive art?**
 - **Should flag burning be banned?**
 - **Are stronger child pornography laws needed?**
 - **Should hate speech be tolerated?**
 - **Should government funding of the arts be restricted?**
 - **Are movie ratings effective in curbing violence?**
 - **Should video games be censored?**
 - **Should internet pornography be censored?**
- **Child Abuse**
 - **Is child testimony in abuse cases generally credible?**
 - **Can orphanages be beneficial for needy children?**
 - **Is spanking detrimental to children?**
- **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 Walmart 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?**
 - **Are curfews effective and constitutional?**

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- **Discrimination**
 - **Reverse Discrimination**
 - **Is affirmative action unnecessary and divisive?**
 - **Are women victims of discrimination in the workplace?**
 - **Have middle-class blacks overcome discrimination?**
 - **Is Hispanic poverty caused by racism?**
 - **Are Asian Americans a model minority?**
- **Dress Codes**
 - **Are student dress codes a violation of civil rights?**

- Do student uniforms affect the culture of a school?
- **Driver's License Requirements**
 - Should school dropouts lose their driver's licenses?
 - Should the age requirement for driving be raised to 18?
- **Dropouts**
 - Should students be allowed to dropout from school?
- **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?
- **Drunk Driving**
 - How should drunk drivers be punished?

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- **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?
- **Education**
 - Should the government offer school vouchers?
 - Does tenure help or hurt the educational system?
 - Are teachers paid enough?
 - Should school start later in the day?
 - Is it more important to desegregate schools or have neighborhood schools?
 - Should students be allowed to choose the school they attend?
 - Should tracking and ability grouping be eliminated?
 - Is home schooling an effective method of education?
 - Should we have year-round school?
- **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?
- **Evolution vs. Creationism**
 - Should evolution be taught in schools?

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- **Gambling**
 - Is compulsive gambling an uncontrollable disease?
 - Should casino gambling be prohibited?
- **Genetics**
 - Should genetically altered foods be sold?
 - Could genetic screening of embryos harm society?
 - Will genetically altered animals benefit humankind?
 - Is DNA fingerprinting reliable?
- **Gun Control**

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- **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?
 - Can chiropractors help heal many ailments?
 - Can mental attitude affect biological disease?
- **High School Graduation Requirements**
 - Should students be required to fulfill community service

- before graduating?
- Should states require a minimum competency test for high school graduation?
- **Holidays**
 - Should we celebrate Columbus Day? Did he really discover America?
 - Should we celebrate Halloween?
 - Can we sing Christmas carols in school?
- **Homeless**
 - Is the extent of homelessness exaggerated?
 - Can shelters help the homeless?
 - Should the homeless be banned from cities?
- **Homosexuality**
 - Should gays be allowed to marry?
 - Should gays be allowed in the military?
 - Should school programs stress the acceptance of homosexuality?
 - Can sexual orientation be changed?
 - Is there a biological influence on male homosexuality?
- **Hunting**
 - Is hunting animals morally acceptable?

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- **Immigration**
 - Are illegal immigrants harming America?
 - Should America admit all immigrants?

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- **Land Use**
 - Are we losing too much farmland to development?
 - Are wetland regulations fair to property owners?

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- **Marijuana**
 - Should marijuana be legalized?
 - Should doctors be able to prescribe marijuana for severely ill patients?
- **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?
- **Motorcycles**
 - Should people riding motorcycles be legally required to wear helmets?
- **Music**
 - Does popular music teach immoral values?
 - Should Napster be legal?
 - Why is music and fine arts education so important?

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- **National Language**
 - Should English be the National Language in the U.S.?
 - Does bilingual education hold back a student's progress in the U.S.?

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- **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 care harm children?
- **Police Brutality**
- **Pornography**
 - Are stronger child pornography laws needed?
 - Does pornography harm children?
 - Should internet pornography be censored?
 - Who decides what material is pornographic or not?
- **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?
- **Prostitution**
 - Should prostitution be legalized?

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- **Religion**
 - Should women be allowed to be priests?
 - Should priests be allowed to marry?
- **Reproduction**
 - How old is too old for a woman to give birth to a child?
 - What are the rights of a father in an artificial insemination?
 - Should pregnant mothers who smoke, drink and use drugs be prosecuted?
 - Is surrogate mothering a valuable service?
- **Right to Privacy**
 - Is the government infringing on our rights to privacy?
- **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?

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- **School Safety**
 - School safety - how much is too much?
 - Is juvenile crime a serious problem in the schools?
- **Sex Education**
 - Should we have sex education in schools?
 - Should schools provide condoms?
 - Can sex education programs prevent teenage pregnancy?
- **Sex Roles**
 - Is growing up tougher for boys than girls?
 - 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?
- **Smoking**
 - Should smoking be banned in all restaurants?
- **Snowmobiling**
- **Special Education**
 - Should disabled children be mainstreamed?
- **Sports**
 - Should professional athletes be looked at as role models?

- **Can competitive sports be unhealthy?**
- **Should college athletic programs be reformed?**
- **Has athletes' greed marred professional sports?**
- **Should steroids be banned from sports?**
- **Are professional athletes paid too much?**

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- **Tanning**

- **Should tanning be banned for teenagers?**

- **Terrorism**

- **Transplants**

- **Should we allow people to sell their organs for transplants?**
- **Should humans be allowed to receive animal organ transplants?**
- **Should newborns without brains be used as organ donors?**

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Persuasive ideas

AMERICAN
RANDOM DRUG TESTING
AIDS FAIR TREATMENT
IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION
WHY WICCA IS NOT BAD
BIRTH CONTROL IN SCHOOLS
STRICTER PUNISHMENTS FOR ATHLETES W/ DRUGS
FACTUAL (BIBLE)
DRINKING AND DRIVING IS BAD
AGAINST SUICIDE
ANIMAL RIGHTS
ALIENS
ABORTION
PRO NUCLEAR POWER
DIETS AND HEALTH
GAMBLING
SMOKING
DONATE BLOOD
RECYCLING
OZONE POLLUTION
GHOSTS AND SPIRITS
GUN CONTROL
RAIN FORESTS
GOVT. COVER UPS
CHILD ABUSE
STRICTER PRISONS
CENSORSHIP
CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
FREE SPEECH
EUTHANASIA
TAKING RISKS
US VS. FOREIGN
LAND MINES
DIVORCE = BAD FOR CHILDREN
NO SEX UNTIL MARRIAGE
PRIVACY