

Some Possible Issues

****Keep in mind that there are several sides to each issue. Once an issue is introduced, you should try and research it as much as possible before you form an opinion. This list is just meant to introduce you to possible issues under debate, not to direct you any one way.****

(Please try to add to this list)

Environmental Issues

- Global warming treaty
- Protecting/Developing the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
- Oil conservation vs. increased drilling
- Clean air and water regulations
- Urban sprawl
- Local recycling
- Over fishing of oceans
- Industrial farming
- Rain forest destruction
- Wolves
- Genetically modified foods
- Animal extinctions (remember the passenger pigeon?)

Energy Issues

- Conservation legislation/ SUV fuel efficiency standards
- Nuclear waste storage
- Supporting alternative energy
- New power plant production
- Dams

Health Issues

- Use of antibiotics in industrial farming
- Reproductive rights/ Zero population growth
- AIDS crisis in Africa
- Medical marijuana
- Euthanasia/physician assisted suicide

Issues in Education

- Bilingual education
- Standardized testing
- Comprehensive sex ed./Abstinence only
- Religion in schools
- School start times
- College admissions
- School vouchers/ Charter schools
- Affirmative action
- School uniforms

Social Issues

- Racial profiling
- Racial oppression
- Gender oppression
- Inner city violence/Gangs
- The war on drugs
- Eating disorders and the media
- Fast food in schools

Governmental Issues

- Campaign finance reform
- The World Trade Organization
- Abortion rights/Pro life
- Gun control/Gun rights
- Tax cuts/economic stimulus
- The death penalty/capitol punishment
- Farmland protection
- Mandatory minimum sentencing laws
- Middle East foreign policy

Defense Issues

- Nuclear weapons control
- Biological and chemical weapons treaty
- Missile Defense Shield
- Homeland defense

Humanitarian Issues

- Human rights abuses
- Child labor
- Sweat shops
- Income gap
- Save Tibet
- Land mine bans/removal

Animal Rights

- Use of lab animals
- Industrial farming practices

Other

- Using cell phones while driving
- Hemp legalization

Some Activism Web sites to check out (we'll find more in class):

- The Union of Concerned Scientists <www.ucsusa.org> (you can select the UCS MEMBERS option at the bottom of the home page, and enter the following. User Name: ucs Password: newton).
- The National Resource Defense Council has a good web site listing environmental issues. Go to <www.nrdc.org>. Some other sites to try for environmental issues are <www.earthjustice.org>, <www.defenders.org>, <www.nwf.org>, <www.Oceana.org>, and <www.sierraclub.org>.
- Amnesty International is an organization that tracks human rights abuses.
- The National Rifle Association (NRA) is a good place to start for gun rights issues.
- The Justice Project is an organization against the death penalty <www.CJReform.org/direct>.
- The SprawlSite.com tracks Colorado growth issues.
- The Heritage Foundation is a conservative think-tank that covers conservative opinions on a wide range of issues.
- The Library of Congress is a good place to go to find out about current national legislation.