

iCONN Learning Activity

Controversial Issues

Level: High School (10th Grade)

Task: Students research a controversial issue in preparation for a debate.

Research Question: What are the arguments, pro and con, that have been offered by the press and political leaders regarding a controversial issue?

Content Area(s): U.S. History – Current Events

State Content Standard(s):

Social Studies

Standard 3: Historical Themes. Students will apply their understanding of historical periods, issues and trends to examine such historical themes as ideals, beliefs and institutions; conflict and conflict resolution; human movement and interaction; and science and technology in order to understand how the world came to be the way it is.

iCONN Database(s): *General (InfoTrac) OneFile, Expanded Academic ASAP*

Search Strategy:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open *General (InfoTrac) OneFile*
4. Use the *Subject Guide Search* and enter your search term in the box (e.g., *terrorism*)
5. Limit results *to documents with full text* (You may also limit your search by selecting certain dates)
6. Click on *Subdivisions* or *Related subjects* to narrow your results
7. Click on a subdivision (e.g. *Causes of*)
8. Look at results list
9. Click on a title of on *Full-text* to read an article

Alternate Search:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Click on *Clear Checkmarks*
4. Click on the category *Newspapers* to search all newspapers simultaneously
5. Enter the terms in the search box (e.g., *terrorism in television*)
6. Click on the number of results shown next to a newspaper to get to the results screen
7. Click on the article’s title or *Full text* to view the article

Adaptations for Differentiated Learning:

Search Strategy:

1. Go to <http://www.iconn.org/>
2. If the list of databases is not already showing, click on “Select iCONN resources”
3. Open either *Expanded Academic ASAP* (for students needing greater challenge) or *InfoTrac Junior Edition* (for students who are challenged)
4. Enter the search term (e.g., terrorism in television) in the search box, click on *SEARCH* (or hit ENTER)
5. In *Expanded Academic ASAP*, limit results to documents with full text
6. Click on a title to read the article

From:

Conard High School

West Hartford

Revised by iCONN Staff, July 2008