Argumentative / Persuasive Essay Topics

Feel free to use one of these topics or one of your own. Note that these topics are in the form of research questions. The thesis of your argumentative or persuasive essay will be your answer to the question, a declarative sentence.

Teen and school issues:

- Should local school boards be allowed to ban books (like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and *The Catcher in the Rye*) from school libraries or reading lists?
- Should teenagers be required to obtain their parents’ permission to obtain contraceptives?
- Should undercover police officers be permitted to pose as high school students to identify sellers and users of drugs?
- Should parents be held responsible for the crimes of their children?
- Should minors (under 18) be executed for murder?
- Should the number of passengers be limited in cars driven by minors?
- Should high school students be required to perform community service as a graduation requirement?
- Should high school education be mandatory?
- Should students be required to wear uniforms?
- Should school dress codes be more restrictive?
- Should there be a dress code for teachers and administrators?
- Should U.S. grade school children be required to learn a foreign language?
- Should the children of immigrants be taught in their native language while learning English?
- Should physical education courses be required in high school?
- Should *An Inconvenient Truth* be shown in schools without presenting opposing viewpoints?
- Should publicly funded school vouchers be an option for parents?
- Should music performance or art courses be required in schools?
- Should standardized tests be a primary consideration for college admission?
- Should academic achievement be a primary consideration for college admission?
- Should the race of the applicant be a primary consideration for college admission?
- Should high schools allow gay/lesbian clubs?
- Should high schools allow religious clubs?
- Should students be allowed to lead a prayer at sporting events or graduation?
- Should the Ten Commandments be displayed in public schools?
- Should high school students be expelled for excessive bullying?
- Should morals or values education be taught in public schools?
- Should the schools block access to certain Internet websites?
- Should auto insurance rates for teenagers be adjusted?
- Should cell phones be banned in the classroom?
- Should the driving age be raised or lowered?
- Should speech codes be imposed on high school or college campuses?
Other general issues:

- Should cell phone use while driving be prohibited?
- Should drunk-driving (DUI) laws be stricter?
- Should the drinking age be lowered for members of the military?
- Should we close our borders to undocumented workers?
- Should divorce be harder to obtain?
- Should single people be able to adopt?
- Should gay couples be able to adopt?
- Should women be allowed in combat?
- Should the U.S. withdraw precipitously from Iraq?
- If Bin Laden is captured, should he be tried in an American court or a military tribunal?
- Should the prison on Guantanamo Bay be closed?
- Should Gitmo detainees be tried in civilian courts?
- Should we sacrifice some of our freedoms in exchange for stronger security?
- Is the racial profiling of people of Middle Eastern descent appropriate while fighting the War on Terrorism?
- Should all American citizens be required to have an ID chip implanted?
- Should affirmative action continue?
- Should the elderly be allowed to drive after a certain age?
- Should euthanasia be legalized?
- Should the U.S. drill for oil in ANWR (Artic National Wildlife Refuge)?
- Is the coverage in the mainstream news media biased?
- Should the government re-impose The Fairness Doctrine?
- Should baseball dump the designated hitter rule?
- Should replays be used to settle disputed calls?
- Should we eliminate Title IX, the law mandating women’s sports on college campuses?
- Should potentially violent and dangerous sports (boxing, wrestling, football) be banned?
- Should random drug testing be mandatory for people in high-risk jobs?
- Should the Internet be censored?
- Should purchases made through the Internet be subject to sales taxes?
- Should basic medical care be free to all citizens?
- Should prisoners be allowed to vote?
- Has political correctness gone too far?
- Should we pay reparations to the descendants of slaves?
- Should there be stronger penalties for committing hate crimes?
- Should children and teenagers be subject to curfew laws?
- Should people who sue and lose be required to pay the defendants costs and expenses?
- Should we have a flat tax rate?