

# SIRS Issues Researcher

## SIRS Issues Researcher features include:

- All articles are full-text
- 300+ Leading Issues
  - 50+ main issues & 240+ sub-issues.
  - Articles
  - Research guide
  - Pro/con viewpoints
- Save your research
- Create bibliographies
- Templates for research papers and more
- Three ways to search:
  - Subject heading
  - Keyword
  - Browse leading issues
- Articles on these major topic areas:
  - Business
  - Environment
  - Family
  - Global issues
  - Health
  - Human relations
  - Institutions
  - Science
- Articles have a Lexile score reading level
- Articles have a MLA citation included
- SIRS stands for "Social Issues Resources Series"

**Special features**—groups specific topics in high interest areas.  
Curriculum Pathfinders support 21st Century Skill building in core content areas.

SIRS Issues Researcher provides selected full-text articles that support grades 6-12. "Leading Issues" provides over 300 topics including abortion, gun control, and capital punishment. Each Leading Issue has the topic overview, reviews the pro/con viewpoints and provides a guide for critical thinking to guide the student through the critical thinking process.



The screenshot shows the SIRS Issues Researcher website. At the top, there are navigation links for "Educators' Resources" and "Standards Correlations". Below that are search options: "Quick Search", "Advanced Search", "Topic Browse", "Database Features", and "[+] My List". The main heading is "Issues Researcher". There is a search bar with "Search by:" and options for "Subject Headings" (selected), "Keyword/Natural Language", "Images", "Maps", "News", and "Pro/Con". A "Search" button is next to the search bar. Below the search bar, there are options for "Sort by:" "relevance" and "date". The main content area is titled "LEADING ISSUES" and features a "YOUR 'TOP 10' PRO vs. CON LEADING ISSUES" section. This section displays a grid of 10 topics with small images: Censorship, Eating disorders, Child labor, Bioterrorism, Predatory lending, Martial arts, Energy dependence, Child abuse, Law and legislation, and Coal-fired power plants. At the bottom of this section are links for "Printer Friendly" and "Top 10 RSS Feed".



The screenshot shows a poll titled "That's Debatable!". The poll question is "Which means of communication is most valuable to you?". There are five radio button options: "Cell phone", "Email", "IM", "Social networking sites", and "Text message". A "Vote!" button is at the bottom of the poll. Below the poll, there are links for "View Results", "Articles", and "Archive". At the bottom of the page, there is a sidebar with various categories and their respective counts in brackets: "Today's News [+]", "Focus on Terrorism [+]", "Natural Disasters [+]", "Spotlight on... [+]", "Curriculum Pathfinders [+]", "World Almanac & Maps [+]", and "Browse Topics [+]".

Printable list of Leading Issues

## To Access SIRS Issues Researcher:

- Go to SD State Library website (<http://library.sd.gov>)
- Click *Online Resources: Complete Listing*
- Click *SIRS Issues Researcher*
- Enter your Library Barcode and Password

**sirs**

Quick Search    Advanced Search    Topic Browse    Database Features    My List    Dictionary    Thesaurus    Toolbox

LEADING ISSUES / **Alternative Education**    RSS FEED

**Topic Overview**

The public school system as we know it was established in the United States by the mid-nineteenth century. Before this time children were primarily educated at home or were taught in schools run by churches or charity groups. | more...

**Research Tools**

Topic Overview    Timeline    Global Impact    Statistics    My Analysis    Note Organizer

**PRO/CON ISSUES and Essential Questions**

**HOMESCHOOLING**  
Does the government have the right to monitor homeschooling?

**SCHOOL VOUCHERS**  
Are school voucher programs that allow parents to choose private schools for their children a good idea?

**SINGLE-SEX SCHOOLS/CLASSROOMS**  
Are single-sex classrooms beneficial?

**Interactive**

Video Title

00:00 / 00:00

Every Leading Issue has a **Topic Overview** with terms to know, key figures, events, organizations and primary sources..

Interactive for every leading issue.

- Research Tools**
1. **Topic Overview**
  2. **Timeline** of topic
  3. **Global Impact** articles & graphics showing global impact of topic
  4. **Statistics** View graphs, statistics on topic
  5. **My Analysis** step-by-step guide to research—including 21st Century Skills Tutor.
  6. **Note Organizer** Graphical note organizer

Search results guide further research

Subject:     Search

See also: [Alternative education](#), [Timeline](#) [Alternative schools](#) [Charter schools](#) [Children with disabilities](#), [Education](#) [Distance education](#) [More...](#)

Sort results by

Date    Sort

**Narrow your results**

[Matching Subjects](#) (5 results)

[All source types](#) (180 results)

- [Newspapers](#) (51 results)
- [Magazines](#) (51 results)
- [Viewpoints](#) (18 results)
- [Reference](#) (2 results)
- [Graphics/Media](#) (53 results)
- [WebSelect Sites](#) (5 results)

**Alternative Education Timeline; Leading Issues Timelines**, ProQuest Staff  
2009 | pg.n.p. | Lexile Score: 1060 | Size: 16K | SIRS Researcher  
**Summary:** This timeline includes events and issues concerning alternative education in the United States.  
**Subjects:** [Alternative education](#), [Catholic schools](#), [Charter schools](#), [Church schools](#), [Educational technology](#), [Alternative education](#), [Timeline](#), [Birth defects](#)

**Students Without Borders; Washington Post (Washington, DC)**, Maria Glod  
Jun 24, 2009 | pg.B.1 | Lexile Score: 1190 | Size: 8K | SIRS Researcher  
**Summary:** "A team of very smart teenagers has set out to discover ways that maggots might make it across the world. They are currently in the middle of a 20,000-mile journey from Washington, D.C. to Singapore. Even as globalization has fed the rest of the world, it also has spawned classroom connections across oceans. Teachers, driven by a desire to provide students with a more global education, say lessons once pulled mainly from textbooks can be redesigned to link students across the world through secure videoconferencing. The program, called Students Without Borders, is a collaboration between the Washington Post, the National Geographic Society, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. [Alternative education](#), [Global impact](#)

Sort by date, relevance, or Lexile reading level

View only the type of information needed—including graphics, selected websites, and viewpoints

If you have any questions about using this resource, contact a South Dakota Librarian.

