

Madigan Library

ENL111 – English Composition I

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Instructor: John Poritsky

If you are doing a paper where you need to take a position on a “pro-con” issue, you will need information to support your side of the argument. The resources listed in this course guide will lead you to: books; chapters in books; articles from journals, magazines, and newspapers; statistics; and public opinion polls.

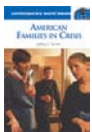
Books



[WorldCat Local](#) is a catalog of books and other materials owned by libraries located around the world. Don't forget to limit the language to “English” and the type to “books.”

Book Series

Use the links below to browse books in these series that the Madigan Library owns. Use [WorldCat Local](#) to find other books in these series that we do not own.



[Contemporary World Issues](#)

This series explores topic-by-topic the critical challenges facing America and the world in the 21st century by providing historical background, contemporary context, and resources for further research.



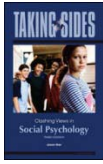
[Opposing Viewpoints](#)

Like Contemporary World Issues, this series also explores controversial, current issues. The series exposes you to many sides of a debate, which promotes issue awareness as well as critical thinking.



[Reference Shelf](#)

Each book in the Reference Shelf series offers extensive exploration of a topic of importance in modern society, in a compilation of notable articles from respected publications, abstracts of 20 to 30 additional articles, and a bibliography of other sources.



[Taking Sides: Clashing Views on...](#)

These volumes present current controversial issues in a debate-style format designed to stimulate student interest and develop critical thinking skills. Each issue is thoughtfully framed with an issue summary, an issue introduction, and a postscript or challenge questions.

Articles in Reference Sources



[Encyclopædia Britannica Online](#) is the full-text online version of over 73,000 articles from the *Encyclopædia Britannica* as well as over 28,000 short articles from the *Britannica Concise Encyclopedia*. These articles can provide quick answers to questions about history, art, science, and other subjects.



[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) contains several reference eBook titles that can be searched at once and has the full-text of all results.



[QH442 .C6452 2008](#)

Controversies in Science & Technology: Volume 2: From Climate to Chromosomes

Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[QH332 .E52 2004 vol. 1-5](#)

Encyclopedia of Bioethics

Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[BJ63 .E45 2001 vol. 1-3](#)

Encyclopedia of Ethics

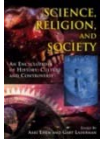
Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[Q175.35 .E53 2005 vol. 1-4](#)

Encyclopedia of Science, Technology, and Ethics

Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[BL240.3 .S37 2007 vol. 1-2](#)

Science, Religion, and Society: An Encyclopedia of History, Culture, and Controversy

Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[E174.5 .G76 2008](#)

This Day in American History

Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[LAW KF154 .W47](#)

West's Encyclopedia of American Law

Main Library - Law Collection – 2nd Fl.

Articles in Specific Periodicals



Congressional Digest provides independent monthly debates featuring controversies in Congress, Pro & Con. Published once a month, this publication highlights competing views on current affairs - subjects like Civil Liberties, the Iraq War, and Media Shield Laws, to name a few. The Madigan Library has issues going back to 1955. View a [list of previous issues by topic](#) on the Congressional Digest Web site.



CQ Researcher publishes 44 weekly issues each year and gives a thorough, nonpartisan overview of important issues in a wide range of areas including social, economic, political, and environmental policy. Each issue offers a balanced, in-depth analysis of a contemporary topic by a veteran journalist, pro and con arguments by experts, a chronology, and annotated bibliographies to guide additional research. The Madigan Library has issues going back to 1996. View a [list of previous issues by topic](#) on the CQ Press Web site.



National Journal covers a diverse range of issues—such as Congress, defense, lobbying, politics, health care, and national security—and profiles the people involved in shaping relevant policy. Search for and get full-text articles from this title back to 1994 using [ProQuest Research Library](#).



Vital Speeches of the Day gives you an unbiased look at the most important speeches from today's top speech givers. You will read examples of rhetoric by those who have attained leadership in the fields of business, politics, education, government, and more. Search for and get full-text articles from this title from 1995 to 2007 using [ProQuest Research Library](#).

[Journals of Opinion \(PDF\)](#)

These contain articles written from a political point of view and are generally commentary on issues related to politics and society. Some journals of opinion do have their own agenda, so it is important to find out what kind of slant/bias they might have. The titles of the journals link out to that publication's home page, if available. Links to the databases allow you to browse or search issues from that specific publication.

Articles in Databases

CURRENT ISSUES REFERENCE SHELF PLUS

[Current Issues Reference Shelf Plus](#) covers over 600 topics with full-text articles from key publications on social, scientific, health, political and global issues with links to primary resources and helpful Web sites.



[Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#) covers controversial social issues, such as terrorism, stem cell research, and assisted suicide. It brings together all the information that is needed to fully understand an issue: pro and con viewpoint articles, reference articles that provide context, full-text magazines, academic journals, newspapers, primary source documents, government and organizational statistics, multimedia, including images and podcasts, links to hand-selected web sites, and more.



[Research Library](#)

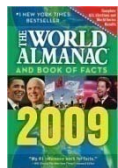
Abstracts and indexing to articles from over 1,800 popular, scholarly, and news publications are represented, including many full-text articles which are provided.

Statistical Resources and Opinion Polls



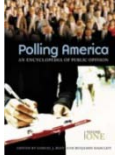
[HA607 .P4](#)

Pennsylvania Abstract: A Statistical Fact Book
Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[AY67 .N5 W7 2009](#)

World Almanac and Book of Facts
Main Library - Reference Desk - 1st Fl.



[HN90 .P8 P645 2005 vol. 1-2](#)

Polling America: An Encyclopedia of Public Opinion
Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.



[HN90 .P8 A527 2005](#)

American Attitudes: What Americans Think about the Issues That Shape Their Lives, 4th ed.
Main Library - Reference Collection - 1st Fl.

New Strategist Publications has several other books that contain statistical information. [View a list](#) of those the Madigan Library owns.



From the U.S. Census Bureau, [American FactFinder](#) is “your source for population, housing, economic, and geographic data.” Included on this site is the Population Finder, which allows you to view population trends for your community, Fact Sheet, which allows you to get a fact sheet for your community, race, ethnic, or ancestry group, and economic, business and industry fact sheets.

Bureau of Labor Statistics

From the U.S. Department of Labor, the [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) covers inflation and prices, employment, unemployment, pay and benefits, spending and time use, productivity, and workplace injuries.



Having trouble locating statistics? Use [FedStats](#) to find links to federal statistics sites and agencies by topic.



[Gallup](#) “has studied human nature and behavior for more than 70 years. Gallup's reputation for delivering relevant, timely, and visionary research on what people around the world think and feel is the cornerstone of the organization. Gallup employs many of the world's leading scientists in management, economics, psychology, and sociology, and our consultants assist leaders in identifying and monitoring behavioral economic indicators worldwide.” View poll information using the [list of topics](#).



[Pennsylvania State Data Center](#)

"The Commonwealth's official source for demographic and economic data."



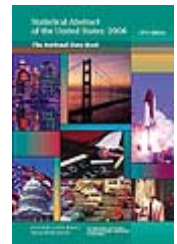
The [Population Reference Bureau](#) is an independent organization that "informs people around the world about population, health, and the environment, and empowers them to use that information to advance the well-being of current and future generations." Topics include aging, education, environment, gender, health/nutrition/ HIV/AIDS, Immigration/migration, income/poverty, marriage/family, population basics, race/ethnicity, reproductive health, and youth.



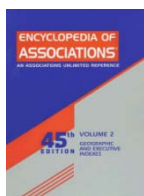
The [Roper Center for Public Opinion Research](#) is one of the world's leading archives of social science data, specializing in data from surveys of public opinion. The data held by the Roper Center range from the 1930s, when survey research was in its infancy, to the present. Most of the data are from the United States, but over 50 nations are represented. View [topics at a glance](#).

U.S. Census Bureau

The [U.S. Census Bureau](#) site has many statistical resources for people and households, business and industry, and geography. Included are links to state and county [QuickFacts](#) and [Statistical Abstracts](#).



Associations



[HS17 .G334 2009 48th ed. vol. 1 pt. 1-3](#)

Encyclopedia of Associations

Main Library - Reference Desk - 1st Fl.

Use this resource to identify organizations that may deal with one side or the other of your argument. Each listing gives a short description and includes a Web address, if available.

Pro-Con Web Sites



[ProCon.org's](http://ProCon.org) mission is to promote "critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan primarily pro-con format."

Tips to Remember

[Evaluating Information Found on the Internet](#)

A very well-done guide by Elizabeth E. Kirk, Milton S. Eisenhower Library, Johns Hopkins University.

[Citing Your Sources](#)

Links to general style manuals and writing sources. We also have copies of the most current editions of the MLA and APA manuals at the Reference Desk. Simply ask us if you need to consult one!



Remember to use [Journal Locator](#) to find out if an article you found a citation to in one database is available full-text in another.



Remember to use [ILLiad \(Interlibrary Loan\)](#) to request an item we don't have access to in our library.

Questions or comments

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Friday: 9 a.m.—3 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m.—10 p.m.

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Last updated 10/2009