



SIRS® Issues Researcher

Insight into critical social issues

On Target, on the Issues

The screenshot displays the SIRS Issues Researcher interface. At the top, there is a search bar with options for 'Subject Headings' and 'Keyword/Natural Language'. Below the search bar, there is a 'LEADING ISSUES' section with a 'TOP 10' list of topics. The topics listed are: Abortion, Abortion, Moral and Ethical Aspects, Abstinence, Abstinence and AIDS Prevention, Abstinence Education, Access to Contraception, Acculturation and Assimilation, Adoption, Advertising, Advertising and Children, Advertising in Schools, Affirmative Action, AIDS, AIDS in Africa, Alcohol Use, Alcoholism, Alternative Education, Alternative Energy Sources, Alternative Medicine, Animal Cloning, Animal Cruelty, Animal Experimentation, and Animal Rights. There is also a 'That's Debatable!' section with a poll about President Obama's proposal for students.

Get right to the heart of an issue with special Leading Issues coverage. It provides not only the background necessary to understanding an issue's origins and key points of contention, but also the current analysis that investigates how the issue affects politics, personal beliefs, current events, and more.

Inside each Leading Issue you'll find:

- A concise introductory overview, timeline, and reference materials for context
- Essential Questions that present the issue's pros and cons and highlighting key points under debate
- Relevant documents, statistics, and multimedia with global perspectives from all sides to help students go from the "whats" of the issue to the "whys"
- Social bookmarking, note organizers, and a critical thinking skills tutor to support the research process from start-to-finish

When you bring it all together, SIRS Issues Researcher is everything you need to tackle the toughest issues—and to begin asking the questions that lead to critical thinking.

SIRS Issues Researcher delivers the pros and cons on today's complex social issues with relevant, credible information that tells the whole story on the major questions of the day.

Go in depth into the hundreds of critical current issues, and explore thousands of topics on enduring social issues. Analysis and opinions—hand selected from thousands of national and international sources—cover the pros, cons, and everything in between, on every issue.

"By providing resources that directly relate to curriculum standards, as well as critical thinking components, step-by-step guidelines for analyzing individual subjects, and teacher-librarian resources to assist in the instruction of the content...SIRS Researcher earns a well-deserved A+." —School Library Journal



Global Warming. Immigration. War in Iraq. Gun Control. Health Care.

Leading Issues / Alternative Energy Sources

Topic Overview
The term "alternative energy" typically refers to non-traditional sources of energy that have a low environmental impact. The term is used interchangeably with "renewable energy" to indicate an energy source that is not a fossil fuel. [more](#)

Pro/CON ISSUES and Essential Questions

- CLEAN COAL**
Should the use of coal as an energy source be expanded?
- DRILLING FOR OIL**
Should the United States open federally protected lands and waters to oil well drilling?
- ENERGY DEPENDENCY**
Is ethanol the answer to reducing U.S. dependency on foreign oil?

Search
Subject: Search

See also: [Alcohol as fuel](#) [Biomass energy](#) [Energy dependence](#) [Energy policy](#) [Environmentalism](#) [More...](#)

Sort results by: Date Sort

Narrow your results: All source types (567 results)

Leading Issues covers over 300 most-studied issues in a pro/con format

When Renewable is Not Sustainable
Ethanol and solar power deplete land and water resources
By Robert Glennon

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS SOLD to the public as an environmentally benign alternative to energy produced by fossil fuels. With respect to ethanol and solar power, however, the debate has ignored how land and water use is affected by refining ethanol, growing corn and siting solar plants.

Energy production requires water. Producing petroleum, natural gas, coal or methane consumes a lot of water, but much less than ethanol. It takes three times as much water to produce ethanol as it does to produce gasoline.

Interactive options: Add to My List, Email, Print view, SHRE, Translate, Select language, Read out loud: Off, Voice: Female, Go to: Summary, PDF, Citation, Audio MP3, Subjects: Environmentalism, Pollution, Renewable energy sources, Solar energy, Ethanol plants, Find Similar.

Read aloud, Lexiles, and MP3 downloads support differentiated instruction

Which argument can this graph support?

Figure 1: Weight differences by exercise frequency

| Gender | Healthy weight | Overweight and obese |
|--------|----------------|----------------------|
| Women | ~45% | ~55% |
| Men | ~35% | ~65% |

Argument 1: More women are at a healthy weight because women exercise more than men.

Argument 2: There are fewer overweight and obese males because men exercise more than women.

Interactive iTHINK™ skills tutor and assessment develops 21st-Century Information Literacy skills

Points of View from Every Angle

Multiple search methods like visual browse, keyword, and subject make it easy to find relevant information. Top 10 issues, monthly polls, today's news, and special focus coverage instantly connect users to current events. Students can sort their results by relevance, date, or Lexile; and view, print, save, or email documents in one step.

Social bookmarking, note organizers, and a citation generator help students complete assignments. Additional tools such as text-to-speech, MP3 downloads, Lexiles, and article translations make content accessible for everyone. Correlation to state and national standards also help teachers tie content directly to curriculum and textbooks.



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