Access to the online
OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS RESOURCE CENTER

GET THE WHOLE STORY!

With access to the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, students enter a world of intelligent, thoughtfully worded discussion centering on the key issues of our time, such as genetic engineering, environmental policy, prejudice, abortion, health care reform, and media violence. This online resource center draws on the acclaimed social issues series published by Greenhaven Press, as well as core reference content from other Gale and Macmillan Reference USA sources. The result is a timely, well-stocked online library that allows students to investigate current issues and topics from a number of perspectives. To take a quick tour of the OVRC, visit http://www.gale.com/OpposingViewpoints/index.htm.

While most core textbook materials must, of course, take a balanced, unbiased view, the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center exposes students to both sides of controversial issues—giving them an opportunity to more deeply explore issues, think critically about the pros and cons of each position, and formulate their own opinions on such topics as: Should parents be held responsible for the crimes of their minor children? Is Affirmative Action a leg up or a hand out? What are the potential benefits—or repercussions—of cloning?

A CRITICAL THINKING FOCUS

A special Research Guide section on the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center provides students with analysis and critical thinking tools they can use to evaluate facts and arguments and to decide for themselves whether to accept, reject, or suspend judgment about a claim. The Research Guide provides a brief overview of how to use the following critical thinking skills:

- How to distinguish fact from opinion and bias from reason
- How to distinguish between primary and secondary sources
- How to evaluate information sources
- How to recognize deceptive arguments
- How to recognize ethnocentrism and stereotypes
- How to prepare for a debate or discussion using OVRC viewpoints

In addition, the Research Guide offers practical advice for analyzing the articles, including:

- Reviewing the author’s credentials and affiliations
- Identifying the main ideas and viewpoints
- Identifying the author’s supporting material (including use of statistics, scientific reports, anecdotes, analogies, and experiences)

Finally, the site walks students through Evaluating Content and Analyzing Sources with Facts and Ethical Concerns. In these easy-to-understand sections, students are asked to read short excerpts from two articles that take opposing views, and then are given step-by-step instructions for analyzing them by extracting the facts, analyzing the values that underlie the position each author takes, and identifying the author’s main objective.