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Topics for Research Papers:

Historical

- Was the Salem Witchcraft Hysteria Caused by a Fear of Women?
- Did American Slaves Develop a Distinct African American Culture in the Eighteenth Century?
- Was the Confederacy Defeated Because of Its "Loss of Will"?
- Was Abraham Lincoln America's Greatest President?
- Were the Immigrants' Old World Cultures Destroyed as They Adjusted to American Life?
- Did World War II Liberate American Women?
- Was It Necessary to Drop the Atomic Bomb to End World War II?
- Was Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Leadership Essential to the Success of the Civil Rights Movement?
- Did President Reagan Win the Cold War?

Bioethical:

- Should Thawing Unused Frozen Embryos Be Permitted?
- Should Commercial Surrogate Motherhood Be Banned?
- Is It Ethical to Withhold the Truth from Dying Patients?
- Is It Unethical to Implant Animal Parts in Humans?
- Should Animal Experimentation Be Permitted?
- Should Newborns Without Brains Be Used as Organ Donors?
- Will the Human Genome Project Lead to Abuses in Genetic Engineering?

Crime and Criminology:

- Is Criminal Behavior Biologically Determined?
- Is Street Crime more Serious Than White-Collar Crime?
- Is Punishment Good Crime Control?
- Juvenile Justice: Are Kids "Getting Away With Murder"?
- Should Capital Punishment Be Abolished?
- Should Elderly Offenders Get Lighter Sentences?
- Will Gun Control Reduce Crime?
- Are Private Prisons a Good Idea?

Economic Issue:

- Are Women Paid Less Than Men Because Their Working Conditions Are More Favorable?
- Are Rent Controls the Cause of America's Homelessness?
- Is Workfare a Good Substitute for Welfare?
- Does Global Warming Require Immediate Government Action?

Environmental:

- Is Populations Control the Key to Preventing Environmental Deterioration?
- Should Energy Policy Focus on Reducing the Use of Fossil Fuels?
- Can Current Pollution Strategies Improve Air Quality?
- Are the Effects of Acid Rain Serious Enough to Justify Strict Enforcement of Clean Air Legislation?

- Is the Widespread Use of Pesticides Required to Feed the World's People?
- Hazardous Waste: Are Cleanup and Control Efforts Succeeding?

Health and Society:

- Should the United States Adopt A National Health Insurance Program?
- Should Doctors Ever Help Terminally Ill Patients Commit Suicide?
- Can a Positive Mental Attitude Overcome Disease?
- Should Alcoholism Be Treated as a Disease?

Legal Issues:

- Should Lawyers Be Prohibited from Presenting a False Case?
- Is the Legal System Damaging the American Economy?
- Is "Hate Speech" Fully Protected by the Constitution?
- Do Prayers at Public School Graduation Ceremonies Violate the Constitution?
- Is Affirmative Action Constitutional?
- Can States Restrict the Right to Die?
- Should "Battered Wife Syndrome" Be Barred as a Defense in a Murder Case?
- Does Caller ID Invade Privacy?
- Should the Insanity Defense Be Abolished?

Mass Media:

- Is Television Harmful for children?
- Are Media Messages About Women Improving?
- Should the Content of Records Be Censored?
- Should the Names of Rape Victims Be Published?
- Do Presidential TV Ads Manipulate Voters?
- Is Advertising Ethical?

Moral Issues:

- Is morality Relative to Culture?
- Is Morality Subjective?
- Is Morality Grounded in Religion?
- Does Society Have an Obligation to Care for the Less Well Off?
- Is Euthanasia Immoral?
- Are Human Rights Basic to Justice?
- Is Patriotism a Virtue?
- Do Rich Nations Have an Obligation to Help Poor Nations?

Political Issues:

- Is American Government Dominated by Big Business?
- Does the Government Regulate Too Much?
- Are the Poor Being Harmed By Welfare?
- Is America Declining?

Psychological Issues:

- Is Day Care Harmful?
- Are Children of Divorced Parents at Greater Risk?
- Can Intelligence Help Us Understand the Human Mind?
- Is Electroconvulsive Therapy Safe?

o Items taken from: Taking Sides Library Index and Guide, 1994.

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