

Read through this entire packet before beginning; then, start here.

1. Log on to the PCC Library at <http://www.pcc.edu/library/>.

2. Click on **Databases by Title**.

3. Scroll down until you get to the database called **Opposing Viewpoints**. Click on it.

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Databases By Title

Look in these databases for magazine and journal articles on your topic. Most databases provide full text articles; others have citations which you can use to find a paper copy in a library. If you are off-campus, you will need to login using your MyPCC account number. Also check the [subject guides](#) for additional information sources Please [ask a librarian](#) if you have questions. You can also see databases listed [by subject](#).

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A

Academic Search Premier [DATABASE]
EBSCOhost. Full text for more than 4,500 scholarly social sciences, humanities, general science, education and multi-cultural journals. 3,700+ are peer-reviewed.

Access Science [DATABASE]
An online version of McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology and McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms. In addition to 8,000+ articles there are biographies, research updates, and science news. The student center provides study guides and bibliographies.

AGRICOLA [DATABASE]
EBSCOhost. AGRICOLA (AGRICultural OnLine Access) is the catalog and index to the collections of the National Agricultural Library.

N-O

netLibrary [DATABASE]
Full text electronic versions of over 2500 print books.

New York Times [DATABASE]
This newspaper is available through Lexis-Nexis.

Newspaper Source [DATABASE]
EBSCOhost. Full text for regional U.S. newspapers, international newspapers, news wires, newspaper columns as well as 24 TV and radio news transcripts. Also contains indexing and abstracts for national newspapers.

NFPA Codes Online [DATABASE]
The National Fire Protection Association's codes and standards. This online edition provides access to the complete set of nearly 300 codes. You can also read the monthly newsletter, *NFPA News*.

Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism [DATABASE]
Gale. Literary criticism for authors who lived during the 19th century. Includes scholarly and popular commentary from broadsheets, pamphlets, encyclopedias, books and periodicals.

Nursing Books@Ovid [DATABASE]
Ovid. Full text current editions of 22 important nursing books published by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

OAlster [DATABASE]
FirstSearch. A union catalog of over 19 million digital resources. Includes items such as scanned books and articles, born-digital texts, audio files, images, movies and datasets.

Opposing Viewpoints [DATABASE]
Gale. A one-stop source for information on current social issues. Includes viewpoint articles on both sides of an issue, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, links to websites, and full-text magazine and newspaper articles.

Oregon Career Information System [DATABASE]
Provides a system of occupational and educational information to help Oregonians learn about the world of work and

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Find a Book or Movie
Find Articles
Evaluate Information



4. Type in your last name and G number and then hit **Submit**.

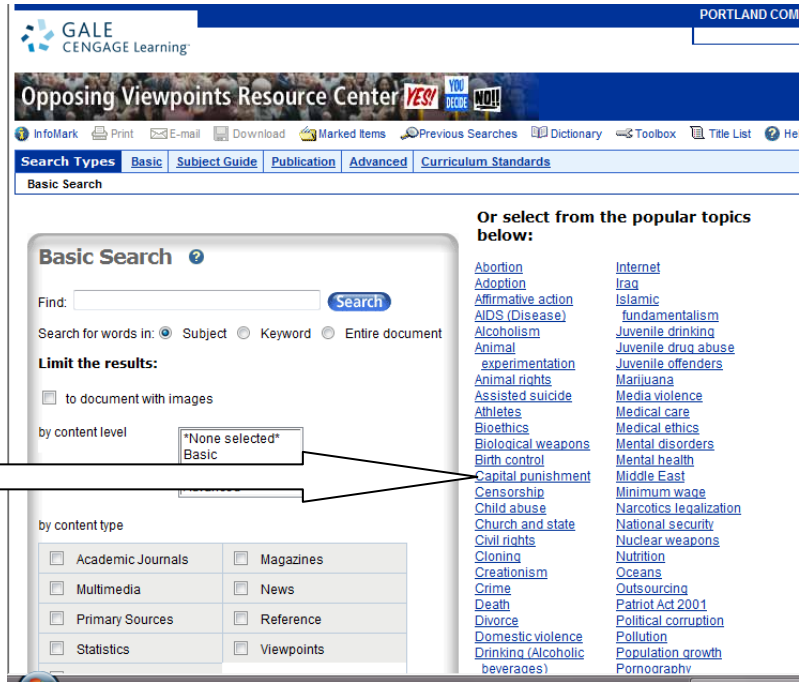
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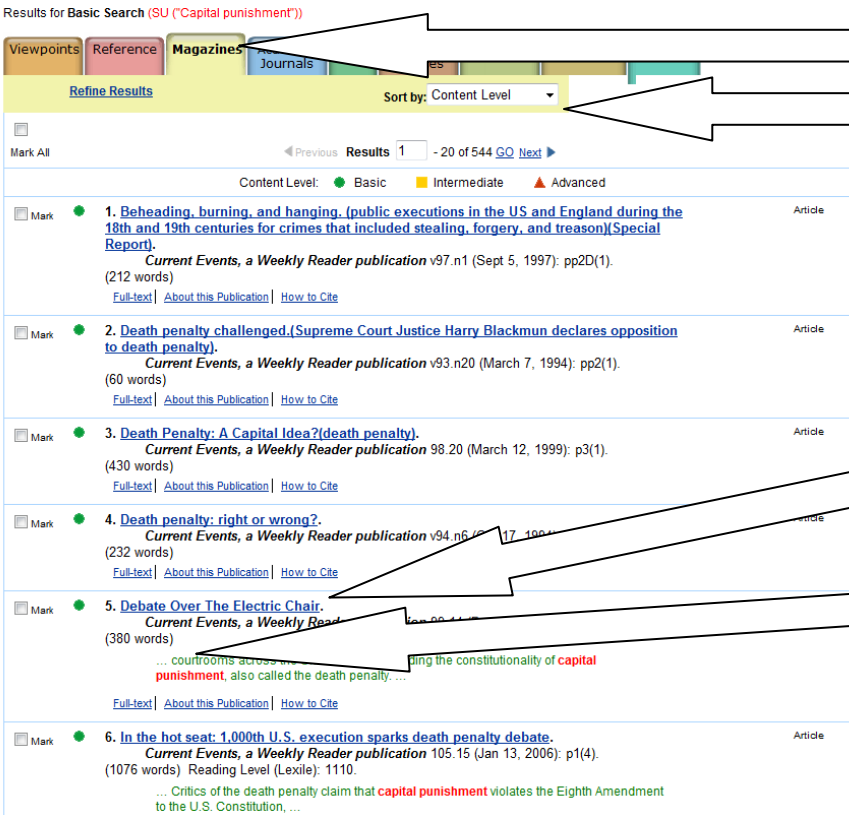
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Your last name: Example: Smith

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5. Once at the **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**, select a controversial topic, such as capital punishment.



6. Select the **Magazines Tab**

7. Sort by **Content Level**. Green circles = easy; orange squares = medium; red triangles = hard

8. Look for **titles** that signal **controversy** or **debate**, with easy or medium content levels.

9. Select articles **at least 350 words**.

10. Print the article from the print icon.

11. You can also listen to it by clicking on the MP3 tool.

12. You can go to the previous or next article by selecting the one you want.

13. Copy and paste the "Source Citation" exactly as shown onto a Bibliography page for your paper.

Debate Over The Electric Chair.
Current Events, a Weekly Reader publication 99.14 (Dec 17, 1999): p.3.
[About this Publication](#) [How to Cite](#) [Source Citation](#) | [Spanish](#) [Translate](#)

Full Text :COPYRIGHT 1999 Weekly Reader Corp.

THE EIGHTH AMENDMENT to the U.S. Constitution consists of just one sentence. It reads, "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." That one sentence, however, has led to countless arguments in courtrooms across the United States regarding the constitutionality of **capital punishment**, also called the death penalty.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently agreed to review a number of **capital punishment** cases, including a Florida case, *Bryan v. Moore*, involving **capital punishment** by the electric chair. Although the High Court is not expected to put an end to **capital punishment** altogether, it might rule to eliminate electrocution as a method for putting criminals to death. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case in February 2000.

The Case

Anthony Braden Bryan was convicted in 1983 of kidnapping and killing a man in Florida. Bryan was sentenced to die by the only method the state of Florida sanctions—the electric chair.

In their appeal, Bryan's lawyers argued that the electric chair violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of "cruel and unusual" punishment. The lawyers cited several Florida electrocutions as evidence. In 1990 and again in 1997, inmates' headpieces caught fire during their executions. In 1999, another Florida execution raised concerns when the executed prisoner was found to have blood covering his shirt.

Despite such malfunctions, supporters of the electric chair believe electrocution is acceptable. Capt. Al Sanchez of the Florida State Police said, "Lethal injection is too humane for these guys [death row inmates]. I think they ought to suffer a little."

Florida Gov. Jeb Bush also supports the electric chair. Lucia Ross, Bush's press secretary said, "The governor is ... considering other options ... [but] that does not diminish his feelings about the constitutionality of the chair. It's legal, it works and we fully support it."

Unacceptable Method

Others disagree, saying the electric chair is inhumane. Justice Leander J. Shaw of the Florida Supreme Court wrote, "Execution by [the electric chair], with its attendant smoke and flames and blood and screams, is a spectacle whose time has passed." Deborah Denno of Fordham University said, "The electric chair is a symbol of ... extreme vengeance. [It] is 'death penalty plus.'"

Should the Supreme Court abolish the electric chair as a method of capital punishment?

Source Citation: "Debate Over The Electric Chair." *Current Events, a Weekly Reader publication*. 99. 14 (Dec 17, 1999): 3. *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*. Gale. PORTLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE. 21 May. 2009 <<http://0-find.galegroup.com/library.pcc.edu:80/ovrc/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T003&prodId=OVRC&dclid=A58282724&source=gale&srprod=OVRC&userGroupName=port14912&version=1.0>>.

The actual assignment is on the last page. Remember, you have until the last day of class, Week 10, to turn this in. It's worth **100 points, maximum**. You can't do a decent job on this project without knowing your stuff, so be sure to focus on Chs. 8 & 9 and review 4-7 (especially Ch. 4). Get started right away, using a work technique that allows you to distribute the whole process over the approximately 2-week period you have to do this.

As always, bring your questions to me at biancom@g7.com / 503-706-8641

1. Identify **up to five different controversial topics** (for **100 extra points total**).
2. **Choose one article per topic.**
3. Conduct a **critical assessment** of each article, using skills and techniques from throughout the term, and particularly Chs. 8 and 9 (worth up to **20 points extra credit each**).
4. **Type no more than 1½ double-spaced pages per article**
 - Attach your critical assessment to the article
 - Please do not write on the article itself
 - Include a bibliography at the end (see Item 6, below)
 - For optimum extra credit, **proofread** for **typos, spelling, punctuation, and grammar** (Tutoring Center, anyone?)
5. **Answer the following** using either full sentences or short bulleted points:
 - What is the **issue**, that is, the controversial **topic** the article is about?
 - What is the **overall main idea** of the article?
 - What is the author's **purpose** in writing the article (**primary** purpose and, if applicable, **secondary**)?
 - Who is the author's **intended audience**?
 - Please be fairly specific.
 - What is the author's **point of view / bias / position**?
 - Justify your response by referring to some examples from the article.
 - What is the author's **tone** (primary and secondary, if applicable).
 - Justify with examples.
 - What is the author's **intended meaning** ?
 - Justify with examples.
 - What **assumptions** does the author take for granted?
 - List and explain why they are assumptions.
 - What types of **support** does the author present?
 - Is the support relevant?
 - Does it pertain directly to the author's argument?
 - ✓ Explain.
 - Is the argument based on **facts** or **opinions**?
 - Give examples of either or both, if present.
 - Are the facts **relevant, complete, and valuable**?
 - Why?
 - Are the **opinions well supported** and **valuable**?
 - Why?
 - What **logical conclusions** can you draw, and are they **credible**?
 - Why?
 - Remember to base your answer to this question on what the author wrote.
 - Based on your critical assessment (everything above), do you agree or disagree with the author?**
 - Why?
6. You probably had to provide quotes and other examples during your justification process. **Remember, anything that is not your own WORDING or your own IDEA needs to be cited.** In your text where you're writing, just put the first few words of the article title in parentheses ("Debate over the Electric Chair"). At the very end of your packet of papers, tack on a Bibliography and arrange the citations you copy and pasted in **alphabetical order**. This is an advanced writing technique; you won't lose more than a couple extra credit points total for not doing this correctly. But if you fail to do this at all, you will definitely lose extra credit.