

Internet Debate Research

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Terms

Internet Provider: The commercial service used to establish a connection to the Internet. Examples of a service provider are America Online, Sprint, ATT, MSN, Road Runner, etc.

Internet Browser: The software used to manipulate information on the Internet. The four major browsers in use are Chrome (the Google product), Mozilla Firefox (the successor to Netscape), Safari (the Apple product) and Internet Explorer (the Microsoft product). Each type of browser will give you access to the same group of search engines, which is the main thing you will care about.

Firefox has one feature that other browsers lack: it can report to you the last revision date of a Web page (select “Page Info” from the top “Tools” menu to access this function). I teach debaters that a Web page may be dated from the last revision date if no other date is shown on the page; Internet Explorer, Chrome and Safari offer no way to know this date.

URL: This stands for Universal Resource Locator. It is the <http://www.baylor.edu> etc.

Internet Search Engine: The software used to search for information on the Internet. You will use the same group of search engines, regardless of which browser (Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari) you may be using. Examples of search engines are Google, Bing, Teoma, Yahoo, Excite, and LookSmart. My personal favorites are Google and Bing.

Metasearch Engines: These are Internet search engines which will submit your search to other search engines. While there were once many metasearch engines, the only major ones remaining are Dogpile and Webcrawler. The metasearch engines advertise that they are superior to any one search engine since they will report results from multiple search engines. While this is useful for some purposes, it is not the best means to conduct debate research. The metasearch engine sends a simple search request to other search engines, meaning that you are foregoing the opportunity to use the “advanced search” function that almost all major search engines make available to you. This means that you often are losing the capability to do exact phrase searching, limitation by date, limitation by domain, or limitation by file type. It is also often true that you will receive fewer hits from each of the major search engines than if you were to issue the search directly within that search engine.

Domain: Each web page on the Internet will have a closing three letter code such as “.com,” “.edu,” “.gov,” “.net,” etc. The domain tells you something about the origin of the web page. In most instances, the “edu” domain means the web page is housed in or provided by a college or university. The “gov” domain means the web page is maintained by a federal, state, or local government. The “com” and “net” domains usually mean a commercial enterprise. Most of the major search engines (in the advanced search options) allow the debater to limit a search to particular domains.

PDF: This stands for “portable document file” and indicates that a document is being made available in a format which will look just like an original document in print (complete with page numbers). PDF files are designed to be viewed and/or printed in Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free for download from the Internet). The advantage for the debater is that information gathered from a PDF file can be cited at a particular page number (the same page number it would have as if you had access to the original printed document). Almost all congressional hearings (starting with the 105th and 106th Congresses) are available in PDF format. This not only means that you can download a hearing which will be identical to the printed one, but it also means that you have almost immediate access to a hearing once it has been held. PDF files also carry the advantage that they generally are made available from well-established sources on the Internet. Again, however, the software necessary to “read” PDF documents is available free on the Internet. You will know that a document for download is available in PDF format if the Internet URL ends in “.pdf”. Most of the major search engines allow you to search for only those Web pages which make available a PDF download.

HTML: This stands for “hypertext markup language” and is the code used for creating web pages. You don’t really need to be an HTML programmer to be able to write a web page since numerous programs can create the code for you from simple-to-operate menu choices. If you want to view the HTML code used to construct a web page you can do so by selecting the top menu choice for “View” (In either Firefox or Chrome) and coming down to the choice for “Developer Tools.” By selecting “View Source” under “Developer Tools” you will see displayed the native HTML code which creates the Web page.

Maximizing the Use of the Search Engine

Why use a search engine? This is the only way to find material on the Internet unless you already know the URL you are looking for. The problem is that you must know the URL precisely; close will not be good enough. In the early days of the Internet folks used to use printed resources such as *Internet Yellow Pages*. But now there are simply too many pages for these types of publications to be useful. Google and Bing, for example, index about 30 trillion Internet pages.

What should I look for in a good search engine?

Comprehensiveness: For the debater, the most important consideration is to find an Internet search engine that indexes as much of the Internet as possible. Powerful

search engines do this through two means. First, they invite Web page creators to send a request to have their pages indexed. This is in the interest of Web designers since they almost always want their pages to be easily found. Second, they employ automatic searching programs which continually find new (and unindexed) pages on the Web and index them. The best search engines also do full text indexing. This means that you could literally pick a phrase out of the middle of a web page, enter the phrase in Google or Bing in quotation marks, and the search engine will find the page for you within about a second. This capability is especially important for the debater. You may have written down a portion of a quotation used against you that you would dearly like to find (either because you want to check its context or you want to locate the quotation to use in your own briefs). If the quotation is from an Internet source you can find it very quickly using a comprehensive search engine.

Speed: Not a major criterion any more. In the early days of search engines you could sometimes issue a search and wait a long time (ten or twenty seconds) for the search to be completed. Those days are gone. All of the major search engines are really almost instantaneous now. If you are experiencing problems with speed it is probably due to your own wireless connection speed or to the limitations of your own computer processor's ability to handle the Web page graphics.

Proximity searches: This is a big concern for the debater. If you enter terms like <legal immigration> into your search engine, you will receive dramatically varying results depending upon the search engine you are using. Google does the best job of doing automatic proximity searching; meaning that it will order your search results by examining how close your search terms are in proximity to one another. Older or less capable search engines merely report the pages that contain some or all of these words.

Revision date reporting: Most of the major search engines allow the user to limit the search by entering a range for the last revision date (assuming you utilize the "advanced search" function). I teach debaters to use the last revision date as the citation date if the date is otherwise unavailable on the Web page. It should be remembered, however, that the Firefox browser makes it possible for you to determine this last revision date for any Web page you are viewing (unfortunately Chrome and Internet Explorer lack this useful feature).

Exact phrase searching: This is an essential feature, for the debater, of a good search engine. By placing your phrase in quotation marks you can instruct the search engine to return only those pages containing the whole phrase as a phrase. When searching for "restrictions on legal immigration" you want to find the whole phrase, not just pages which contain the individual words "restrictions" and "immigration." Almost all major search engines allow for exact phrase searching.

Procedures for effective searching:

What about capitalization? For Internet search engines capitalization no longer matters. Searching for “LEGAL IMMIGRATION” will produce the same results as “Legal Immigration” or “legal immigration.”

What about quotation marks? Use quotation marks whenever you want the search engine to look for words together as a phrase (assuming you are using a search engine that enables exact phrase searching). If you search for restrictions on legal immigration (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word “restrictions” and “legal” and “immigration” but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around “restrictions on legal immigration” you are requesting only those pages containing the whole phrase. There is no need to put quotation marks around a single word.

How can one limit a search to a particular domain? The best Internet search engines have an “advanced search” or “power search” capability. One of the options in the advanced search engine is the capability to limit by domain. Limited your search to the .gov domain will, for example, provide an efficient means of finding government publications on the desired search. To access Google’s advanced search engine, simply place the words “advanced search” in the Google search box.

How can one search for a particular URL (you know part but not all of the URL)? Many of the advanced search engines provide the capability to enter a search term and then to indicate whether you wish to make this search apply to “title only,” “full-text,” or URL. You would, of course, select the URL option.

How does the search engine rank the web pages it reports? This is a somewhat controversial issue. Some search engines receive payment from Internet advertisers for the privilege of having their pages reported early in the search list. Most search engines, though, report the web pages in order of the greater number of occurrences of the term. Google’s patented PageRank system factors in not only the proximity of the terms but the number of times other users have accessed the web pages.

Quality of Evidence on the Internet

Setting rigid standards will be essential: The Internet makes available web pages from fourth grade students right alongside those from world-class experts. Just as in the print medium, one must make a distinction between the *New York Times* and the *National Enquirer*. Since most debate research is squad-based, meaning it is shared by many students, it is essential that there be agreement on minimum standards for the types of web pages which may be used for debate research. Following are some recommended standards:

NO use of web pages which come from discussion groups or chat rooms.

NO use of evidence from comments posted on blogs.

NO use of web pages where the author's qualifications are unknown.

NO use of web pages where the author is a student in grade school, high school, or college.

NO use of web pages from hate groups or from unidentified organizations.

NO use of web pages which are undated or for which a "last revision date" is unavailable.

Prefer web pages sponsored by one of the following groups:

- A government institution

- A major educational institution

- A recognized "think tank" (RAND, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, CATO Institute, Hudson Institute, etc.)

- A reputable journalistic organization (CNN, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc.)

Using the URL to sort out author qualifications: Consider the following example. You enter "John Rawls" and "social safety net" in a Google search. You have a web page returned to you entitled "Notes on 'A Theory of Justice.'" The web page contains some information which you find useful, but you have no information about the author other than just the name Chilton. You notice from the URL that the web page comes from an "edu" domain associated with something called d.umn, but you don't know what school this is, and you don't know whether the author is a professor or an undergraduate student. The URL is <http://www.d.umn.edu/~schilton/3652/Readings/3652.Rawls.ATheoryOfJustice.html>. Take apart the URL to discover more about the author. Click with your mouse up in the URL line and eliminate all of the end of the URL back to schilton, then return. See if you can find more information about the author. If the URL comes from an educational institution with which you are unfamiliar, eliminate all of the end of the URL back to the part which ends in "edu" then hit return. By clicking the button on his web page for "Vita" you can discover information about his background. You find that the author of the web page is Stephen Chilton, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, who earned his Ph.D. from MIT — a good source. But some additional work was needed to determine the qualification. **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU FIND THE PERSON OR GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZING THE WEB PAGE.** It is NEVER a sufficient qualification that you found it on the Internet.

How to find the date. Some web pages will have the date prominently displayed at the top of the web page. Whenever you have this type of date listed, it should be used rather than the last revision date of the web page. Often, however, there is no date on the web page. In such cases, you can find the last revision date by using the "Tools" menu choice to select the "Page Info" option (available only in Firefox). (Resist the temptation to select "Source Info" because that will just show you the HTML code for the web page). Page Info will usually show you the name of the

organization sponsoring the web page and the last revision date. If the Web page offers the download of a PDF document, a date can always be found. Simply download the PDF file to your computer and open it in Adobe Acrobat. From the “File” menu, select “Properties” to view both the creation and last revision dates.

How to prepare debate citations from the Internet. Example:

Joshua Feinman, (Chief Economist, Deutsche Asset Management),
IMMIGRATION: BANE OR BOON?, Sept. 2017. Retrieved Apr. 8, 2018
from https://institutional.dws.com/content/media/A_Closer_Look_September_2017.pdf.

This is the citation standard required by the National Speech and Debate Association, which follows a modified version of the Style Manual of the Modern Language Association (MLA). Authors must be listed if present. Qualifications must be given. The date of the web page must be given. The name of the web page should be presented. At the end of the citation, indicate that it was gathered online and that the online source was an Internet URL (as opposed to Lexis/Nexis, Dialogue, etc.). The final date is the date that you accessed the Internet material.

Carding Evidence

ADVANTAGES OF ON-DISK EVIDENCE AND BRIEF PREPARATION

Minimize Printing: In the age of the information explosion, it is simply not feasible for debaters to print out a hard copy of everything they think they might need to read. The two major impediments are expense and time. It is expensive (in printer cartridges) for a debate squad to print out all of the materials that active researchers need. It is also time consuming to print big chunks of material; computer labs typically have many computers but a single printer. The printer becomes the bottle neck. The overuse of printing is also environmentally irresponsible. Debaters chunk huge volumes of paper, often printing out a two-hundred page law review article in order to extract two or three cards. This means that hundreds of pages per day of printed or photocopied materials are simply discarded.

More Usable Briefs: Word processed briefs are easier to read (no illegible handwritten tags, no red or blue ink which refuses to photocopy), and they contain much more evidence per page. This ends up saving a squad large amounts of money in photocopy cost. In fact, members of a large squad can simply distribute new positions via disk and have each squad member print out their briefs on their own printer. This dramatically reduces squad photocopy costs. If briefs are to be word processed, it simply makes sense to collect the evidence on-disk. Otherwise, the debater has to re-type the evidence which exists in hard copy.

Sorting is Easy: The old way for debaters to construct arguments (a hegemony disadvantage, for example) is to create piles on a table-top of evidence which is sorted into different parts of the argument. Inevitably, as the argument is being constructed, there are numerous times when the debater thinks, "I know I have that piece of evidence that says . . . but WHERE IS IT?" When evidence is collected, sorted, and filed on-disk, that doesn't happen. If the evidence isn't found in the right category, the debater simply uses the word processor's "find" function to search for the word or phrase. The card is located in seconds. When evidence is prepared on-disk, the debater can simply use the sorting function of the word processor to put the evidence in order.

HOW DOES ONE CARD EVIDENCE ONLINE?

Have Your Word Processor and Internet Browser Both Open at the Same Time: There was a time when computers simply didn't have enough RAM (current memory) to have two large programs open at once. Almost all current generation computers have plenty of memory to make this possible. Simply open the first program, then minimize the window (minimize button is in the top right corner) and start up the other program. If you are on a PC, switch back and forth between the two programs by clicking the desired program on the start-bar. On the Macintosh, you can switch between programs by using the icon in the top right hand corner of your screen. An alternative method for switching is to overlap the window just a bit so that a corner of both can be seen. When you desire to switch, just click with the mouse on the other window to make that program active.

Steps for On-Disk Carding of Evidence:

Text-Saving Method:

1. Locate the Internet site from which the evidence will come.
2. Construct the evidence citation on the word processor in accordance with NFL rules.
3. Highlight the portion of the text from the web page which will makeup the text of the card. Copy the text into memory (on the PC, this is Cntrl-C; on the Macintosh it is Apple-C).
4. Switch to the word processor and paste in the text just below the evidence citation. (On the PC, this is Cntrl-V; on the Macintosh it is Apple-V)
5. Eliminate unwanted carrier returns in one of two ways: (a) click at the beginning of each line and backspace, or (b) use the word processor's search and replace function to eliminate all paragraph breaks.
6. Continue pasting cards into the word processor until you have taken all of the desired cards from the web page. Then copy and paste as many evidence citation tops as needed to match each of the cards.

SORTING EVIDENCE ON THE COMPUTER

Design a filing scheme which will allow addition of categories.

Once filed and sorted, your on-disk evidence file functions just like the “piles of cards” on the table. You use the index to see where the cards are which will support the part of the argument you are putting together, then use the search function on the word processor to find the cards, by searching for R301, for example. Read the cards which are filed there, and select the card or cards you want to insert in the brief. Then cut and paste them.

Suggestions for Online Policy Debate Research

Finding Definitions of Terms:

www.OneLook.com: Access to more than one thousand dictionaries is available through www.onelook.com.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>: This Web resources says that it is “the world’s largest and most authoritative free online dictionary and mobile reference resource.”

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/>

<http://www.etymonline.com/>

Newspaper & Journal Articles:

Google News: Google news gives you access to otherwise hard to find news articles on the immigration topic. The normal news database is limited to the past 30 days, but you can access the Google News Archive at <http://news.google.com/newspapers> for older articles.

FindArticles: This article search site is maintained by CBS News.

Library of Congress Online Reading Room. From this Web site, the debater can find links to hundreds of online newspapers and journals.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html>

The Write News. This site provides links to all major newspapers maintaining online services. <http://writenews.com/newslinks/>

Research Think Tanks:

American Enterprise Institute: “The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom—limited government, private enterprise, vital cultural and political institutions, and a strong foreign policy and national defense—through scholarly research, open debate, and publications. Founded in 1943 and located in Washington, D.C., AEI is one of America's largest and most respected think tanks.”
<http://www.aei.org/library.htm>

Brookings Institution: “In its research, The Brookings Institution functions as an independent analyst and critic, committed to publishing its findings for the information of the public. In its conferences and activities, it serves as a bridge between scholarship and public policy, bringing new knowledge to the attention of decisionmakers and affording scholars a better insight into public policy issues. The Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 with the founding of the Institute for Government Research, the first private organization devoted to public policy issues at the national level. In 1922 and 1924, the Institute was joined by two supporting sister organizations, the Institute of Economics and the Robert Brookings Graduate School. In 1927, these three groups were consolidated into one institution, named in honor of Robert Somers Brookings (1850-1932), a St. Louis businessman whose leadership shaped the earlier organizations.”

CATO Institute: “The Cato Institute was founded in 1977 by Edward H. Crane. It is a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Institute is named for Cato's Letters, a series of libertarian pamphlets that helped lay the philosophical foundation for the American Revolution. The Cato Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace. Toward that goal, the Institute strives to achieve greater involvement of the intelligent, concerned lay public in questions of policy and the proper role of government.” www.cato.org

Heritage Foundation. “Founded in 1973, The Heritage Foundation is a research and educational institute — a think tank — whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.” <http://www.heritage.org/>

Hudson Institute: “In Hudson Institute’s policy recommendations, articles, books, conferences, and contributions to the electronic media, we share optimism about the future and a willingness to question conventional wisdom. We demonstrate commitment to free markets and individual responsibility, confidence in the power of technology to assist progress, respect for the importance of culture and religion in human affairs, and determination to preserve America’s national security.”
<http://www.hudson.org/>

RAND Corporation: “RAND (a contraction of the term research and development) is the first organization to be called a "think tank." We earned this distinction soon

after we were created in 1946 by our original client, the U.S. Air Force (then the Army Air Forces). Some of our early work involved aircraft, rockets, and satellites. In the 1960s we even helped develop the technology you're using to view this web site. Today, RAND's work is exceptionally diverse. We now assist all branches of the U.S. military community, and we apply our expertise to social and international issues as well." <http://www.rand.org/>

Law Reviews:

University Law Review Project. <http://www.lawreview.org/>

LawTechnologyToday.org. This site provides links to hundreds of law reviews many of which make their archives available online.
<http://www.lawtechnologytoday.org/free-full-text-online-law-review-journal-search/>

Top Immigration Web Sites for Policy Debaters

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). <https://www.aclu.org/>. The ACLU says that its purpose is “to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.” Numerous documents available from this website advocate for protection of the rights of immigrants and oppose the use of private prisons for immigrant detention. The ACLU has also been active in opposing President Trump’s executive order banning refugee entry from certain Muslim countries.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI). <http://www.aei.org/>. This organization describes its purpose as follows: “The American Enterprise Institute is a public policy think tank dedicated to defending human dignity, expanding human potential and building a freer and safer world. The work of our scholars and staff advances ideas rooted in our belief in democracy, free enterprise, American strength and global leadership, solidarity with those at the periphery of our society and a pluralistic, entrepreneurial culture. We are committed to making the intellectual, moral and practical case for expanding freedom, increasing individual opportunity and strengthening the free enterprise system in America and around the world.” By entering the word, “immigration,” in the search box, debaters will gain access to articles both supporting and opposing the Trump administration policies. The traditional viewpoint of AEI scholars has been that free trade and increased immigration benefits the U.S. economy. Yet a significant number of recent AEI articles provide support for the Trump administration policies of reducing legal immigration and increasing deportation efforts.

American Immigration Council. <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/>. This organization declares its mission as “to strengthen America by honoring our immigrant history and shaping how America thinks about and acts towards immigrants and immigration. We believe that everyone deserves an opportunity to present their immigration claims in a fair and orderly way. We hold that our doors must be open to those who come to the United States in search of safety and protection. We believe that immigrants strengthen America by bringing skills, talents and new energy to our economy. We believe in honest debates driven by the facts, not fear.” Many of the documents available from this website advocate for passage of the DREAM Act and opposition to the Trump administration’s efforts to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Aspen Institute. <https://www.aspeninstitute.org/>. According to its website, “the Aspen Institute is an educational and policy studies organization based in Washington, DC. Its mission is to foster leadership based on enduring values and to provide a nonpartisan venue for dealing with critical issues. The Institute has campuses in Aspen, Colorado, and on the Wye River on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. It also maintains offices in New York City and has an international network of partners.” While immigration is not one of the nine major research programs of the Aspen Institute, it has sponsored numerous recent reports

relevant to the 2018-19 immigration topic. By entering “immigration” in the search box, the debater will find numerous articles calling for passage of the Dream Act and for the preservation of the U.S. family-based system of immigration.

Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC). <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/>. The stated mission of this group is as follows: “The Bipartisan Policy Center is a non-profit organization that combines the best ideas from both parties to promote health, security and opportunity for all Americans. BPC drives principled and politically viable policy solutions through the power of rigorous analysis, painstaking negotiation and aggressive advocacy.” One of the research areas for the BPC involve its Immigration Project and Immigration Task Force with a charge to “analyze and report on the state of U.S. immigration policy, with an emphasis on the economic, humanitarian and security aspects of the issue in order to make recommendations and develop the political case for bipartisan legislative immigration reform.” Recent reports have promoted an increase in merit-based immigration and a congressional deal on DACA.

Brookings Institution. <https://www.brookings.edu/>. According to its website, “the Brookings Institution is a nonprofit public policy organization based in Washington, DC. Our mission is to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level.” The more than 300 Brookings scholars publish research in areas such as “foreign policy, economics, development, governance and metropolitan policy.” Recent articles oppose the Trump administration policies on the border wall, travel ban and refusal to cooperate with international refugee resettlement programs.

Cato Institute. <https://www.cato.org/>. The Cato Institute explains its origin and purpose as follows: “The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization – a think tank – dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace. Its scholars and analysts conduct independent, nonpartisan research on a wide range of policy issues. Founded in 1977, Cato owes its name to Cato’s Letters, a series of essays published in 18th-century England that presented a vision of society free from excessive government power.” Cato scholars are libertarian in outlook; for immigration policy that generally means support for free trade and fewer immigration restrictions. Recent documents have attacked the Trump travel ban, opposed efforts to increase immigrant deportations, supported increased immigration opportunities for Christians fleeing persecution and advocated for more agricultural guest workers.

Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/>. This group, involving hundreds of resident and non-resident scholars, describes itself as a progressive think tank: “As progressives, we believe America should be a land of boundless opportunity, where people can climb the ladder of economic mobility. We believe we owe it to future generations to protect the planet and promote peace and shared global prosperity. And we believe an effective government can earn the trust of the American people, champion the common good over narrow self-interest and harness the strength of our diversity.” By entering “immigration” in the search box, debaters can access reports on the Trump administration’s termination of Temporary Protected Status, threats to deport DACA recipients, ending protection for Haitian refugees and other topics.

Center for Comparative Immigration Studies. <http://ccis.ucsd.edu/>. This research center, housed at the University of California, San Diego, involves the scholarship of 355 research associates focusing on all aspects of international migration. By clicking the “Publications” tab and then selecting the “Briefs” tab, the debater can gain access to dozens of recent reports on the Syrian refugee crisis, unaccompanied children entering the U.S., the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, immigrant rights and numerous other immigration issues.

Center for Immigration Studies (CIS). <https://cis.org/>. This organization advocates for a lower level of immigration than at present: “The data collected by the Center during the past quarter-century has led many of our researchers to conclude that current, high levels of immigration are making it harder to achieve such important national objectives as better public schools, a cleaner environment, homeland security and a living wage for every native-born and immigrant worker. These data may support criticism of U.S. immigration policies, but they do not justify ill feelings toward our immigrant community. In fact, many of us at the Center are animated by a ‘low-immigration, pro-immigrant’ vision of an America that admits fewer immigrants but affords a warmer welcome for those who are admitted.” The

publications available from this website claim that immigrants take jobs from American workers, waste welfare dollars, promote criminal activity and undermine the U.S. educational system.

Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS). <https://www.csis.org/>. This highly regarded “think tank” focuses almost exclusively on foreign policy: “Established in Washington, D.C., over 50 years ago, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) is a bipartisan, nonprofit policy research organization dedicated to providing strategic insights and policy solutions to help decision makers chart a course toward a better world.” CSIS scholars have consistently opposed the various versions of the Trump administration limits on refugee admissions from Muslim countries, arguing that such policies are inhumane and counterproductive in the fight against international terrorism.

Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). <https://www.cfr.org/>. The CFR says it is “an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. Founded in 1921, CFR takes no institutional positions on matters of policy.” Immigration is one of the trending topics on the CFR website with recent articles on the Trump administration’s removal of Temporary Protected Status, reactions to President Trump’s comments about immigrants from Africa and use of H-1B visas to attract workers with technical skills.

Economic Policy Institute (EPI). <http://www.epi.org/>. This group describes itself as a “nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank created in 1986 to include the needs of low- and middle-income workers in economic policy discussions. EPI believes every working person deserves a good job with fair pay, affordable health care and retirement security. To achieve this goal, EPI conducts research and analysis on the economic status of working America. EPI proposes public policies that protect and improve the economic conditions of low- and middle-income workers and assesses policies with respect to how they affect those workers.” By clicking the tab for “Areas of Research,” the debater will discover that “Immigration” is a focus area for EPI. Recent articles have called for an immigration system more closely aligned with U.S. employment needs.

Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). <https://fairus.org/>. This organization advocates for reducing “overall immigration to a more normal level. Reducing legal immigration levels from well over one million presently to 300,000 a year over a sustained period will allow America to manage growth, address environmental concerns and maintain a high quality of life.” FAIR also declares that it seeks an immigration policy not focused on race: “We believe in respecting the basic human rights and the dignity of all involved. As such, FAIR opposes policies based on favoritism toward, or discrimination against, any person based on race, color, religion or gender.” It should be noted, however, that groups such as the Southern Poverty Law Center have charged that FAIR, and other anti-immigrant groups founded by John Tanton continue to espouse his alleged white nationalist views. Articles available from the FAIR website oppose the DREAM Act, warn against increased refugee admissions, praise the Trump administration’s decision to end Temporary Protected Status for El Salvadoran immigrants, encourage an end to family-based immigration and support merit-based programs of entry.

Heartland Institute. <https://www.heartland.org/about-us/what-we-do/index.html>. According to its website, “the Heartland Institute is a national nonprofit research and education organization addressing a wide range of public policy issues. We have deep expertise on budget and tax issues, education policy, environmental protection and health care policy. We produce books, policy studies and shorter publications and send many of them to every national and state elected official in the United States.” The immigration reports available from the Heartland Institute generally support the Trump administration’s immigration initiatives.

Heritage Foundation. <https://www.heritage.org/>. The Heritage Foundation describes its mission in the following way: “Free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values and a strong national defense – promoting these principles is the mission of The Heritage Foundation, which we fight for every single day. As the nation’s largest, most broadly-supported conservative research and educational institution – a think tank – The Heritage Foundation has been the bastion of the American conservative movement since our founding in 1973.” Numerous reports available from this

website provide support for various Trump administration immigration policies or proposals, including ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, cutting the numbers of refugees accepted for resettlement, ending the diversity lottery program, eliminating low-skill and family-based immigration and focusing on a merit-based immigration system.

Hoover Institution. <https://www.hoover.org/>. This organization, based on the campus of Stanford University, was created by President Herbert Hoover with the following mission: “The principles of individual, economic and political freedom; private enterprise and representative government were fundamental to the vision of the Institution’s founder. By collecting knowledge, generating ideas and disseminating both, the Institution seeks to secure and safeguard peace, improve the human condition and limit government intrusion into the lives of individuals.” Hoover Institution scholars generally oppose President Trump’s efforts to restrict immigration. Numerous recent documents offer support for increasing refugee admissions, restoring support for DACA and maintaining high levels of legal immigration.

Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/>. This organization focuses on human rights conditions around the world: “Established in 1978, Human Rights Watch is known for its accurate fact-finding, impartial reporting, effective use of media and targeted advocacy, often in partnership with local human rights groups. Each year, Human Rights Watch publishes more than 100 reports and briefings on human rights conditions in some 90 countries, generating extensive coverage in local and international media.” By searching under the “Reports” tab, the debater will find many recent reports on immigrant deportation and U.S. treatment of refugees.

Manhattan Institute. <https://www.manhattan-institute.org/>. This organization identifies itself as a free market think tank: “The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research is a think tank whose mission is to develop and disseminate new ideas that foster greater economic choice and individual responsibility. The Institute serves as a leading voice of free-market ideas, shaping political culture since our founding in 1977. Ideas that have changed the United States and its urban areas for the better – welfare reform, tort reform, proactive policing and supply-side tax policies, among others – are the heart of MI’s legacy. While continuing with what is tried and true, we are constantly developing new ways of advancing our message in the battle of ideas.” Articles available from this website generally support increases in legal immigration, both in low-skill and high-skill areas. Manhattan Institute reports generally find that the Southern border is properly secure and that attention should now shift to finding ways to meet the U.S. economy’s growing need for workers.

Mercatus Center at George Mason University. <https://www.mercatus.org/>. This organization claims that it is “the world’s premier university source for market-oriented ideas – bridging the gap between academic ideas and real-world problems. As a university-based research center, the Mercatus Center trains students, conducts research of consequence and persuasively communicates economic ideas to solve society’s most pressing problems and advance knowledge about how markets work to improve people’s lives. Our mission is to generate knowledge and understanding of the institutions that affect the freedom to prosper and to find sustainable solutions that overcome the barriers preventing individuals from living free, prosperous and peaceful lives.” By clicking the “Topics” tab and then the “Trade and Immigration” option, the debater will gain access to numerous helpful reports.

Migration Policy Institute. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>. This group was founded in 2001 as a project of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The groups major areas of study include (1) migration management, (2) refugee protection and international humanitarian response, (3) North American borders and migration agenda and (4) immigrant settlement and integration. By clicking the “Publications” tab, the debater will gain access to numerous useful documents, including a 2018 report evaluating immigration changes made during the Trump administration’s first year in office.

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). <http://www.nber.org/>. The history and purpose of the NBER is described on its website: “Founded in 1920, the NBER is a private, non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to conducting economic research and to disseminating research findings among academics, public policy makers and business professionals. NBER-affiliated researchers study a wide range of topics and they employ many different methods in their work. Key focus areas include developing new statistical measurements, estimating quantitative models of economic behavior and

analyzing the effects of public policies.” Near the top right corner of the website are two search boxes; by entering “Immigration” in the first box and “Research” in the second, the debater can gain access to hundreds of pages of recent reports relevant to the 2018-19 topic.

National Immigrant Justice Center. <https://www.immigrantjustice.org/>. This group says it is “dedicated to ensuring human rights protections and access to justice for all immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers.” The website also offers a description of its success rate: “Thanks to the support of hundreds of pro bono attorneys from the nation’s leading law firms, NIJC has made critical advances in the lives of hundreds of thousands of vulnerable immigrants, refugees and asylum seekers. NIJC provides legal services to more than 10,000 individuals each year and maintains a success rate of 90 percent in obtaining asylum for those fleeing persecution in their home countries. NIJC and its pro bono attorneys have been on the vanguard of federal impact litigation and advocacy, setting positive precedents for those seeking human rights protections within our borders.”

National Immigration Law Center. <https://www.nilc.org/>. This organization describes its purpose as to advocate for the legal defense of immigrants: “Established in 1979, the National Immigration Law Center (NILC) is one of the leading organizations in the U.S. exclusively dedicated to defending and advancing the rights of immigrants with low income. At NILC, we believe that all people who live in the U.S. should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential. Over the years, we’ve been at the forefront of many of the country’s greatest challenges when it comes to immigration issues, and we play a major leadership role in addressing the real-life impact of policies that affect the ability of low-income immigrants to prosper and thrive.” Documents available from this website support increased legal representation for immigrants, oppose Trump administration efforts to block immigration from Muslim-majority countries and urge passage of the DREAM Act.

National Immigration Forum. <http://immigrationforum.org/>. This group describes its work as “centered around four overarching priority concerns: Immigration reform and workforce needs – Shaping the policies necessary to make our immigration system serve the national interest, meeting the needs of our economy, workers and families. Integration and citizenship – Creating the opportunities necessary for immigrants to succeed and contribute to the growth and prosperity of America. Borders and interior enforcement – Developing fiscally responsible and humane policies that protect America and promote commerce, while respecting the rights of workers and employers, families and communities. State and local immigration developments – Promoting the principle that immigration law and enforcement are federal responsibilities.”

National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild. <https://www.nationalimmigrationproject.org/>. This organization describes itself as “a national non-profit organization that provides technical assistance and support to community-based immigrant organizations, legal practitioners and all advocates seeking and working to advance the rights of noncitizens.” This website offers access to the legal briefs filed in opposition to Trump administration efforts to reduce immigration numbers. This group charges that the Trump administration is attempting to “delay and deny citizenship and permanent residency to Muslim immigrants and immigrants from Muslim majority countries, despite their eligibility under the law.”

New America Foundation. <https://www.newamerica.org/>. This organization, founded in 1999, is a collection of “policy experts and public intellectuals” charged with the task of renewing America by continuing the quest to realize our nation’s highest ideals, honestly confronting the challenges caused by rapid technological and social change and seizing the opportunities those changes create.” The New America Foundation describes its scholarship on immigration in the following way: “Our immigration-focused work are focused on building sustainable tools and services for three key (and occasionally overlapping) groups: undocumented immigrants, immigrants from Muslim countries and refugees, as well as the organizations that advocate on their behalf. This includes building better support for existing aid providers to these communities, building immigrant and refugee facing products and services where there aren’t existing ones and helping existing products and services better support these communities in need through building sustainable business models and creating more user-centric products.”

NumbersUSA. <https://www.numbersusa.com/>. Roy Beck, the director of NumbersUSA, is also the author of the book, *The Case Against Immigration*. In his book and in the documents hosted on this website, Beck’s central argument is that immigration levels are too high. He writes that individual immigrants bear “zero

blame” and should not be targeted by hate; instead, NumbersUSA claims there are just too many immigrants. Articles accessible from this website claim that high immigrant numbers undermine the environment, cause urban sprawl, take jobs from vulnerable Americans, impose undue burdens on taxpayers, depress wages, undermine labor unions and unduly serve big business interests.

Peterson Institute for International Economics. <https://piie.com/>. This organization describes itself as “a private, nonpartisan nonprofit institution for rigorous, intellectually open and in-depth study and discussion of international economic policy. Its purpose is to identify and analyze important issues to make globalization beneficial and sustainable for the people of the United States and the world and then develop and communicate practical new approaches for dealing with those issues.” Recent reports on immigration have opposed the Trump administration’s ban on entry from Muslim-majority countries and the proposed “border tax” for anyone crossing the Southern border.

Pew Research Center. <http://www.pewresearch.org/>. This group describes itself as “a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. We conduct public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. We do not take policy positions.” By placing the word “immigration” in the search box, debaters gain access to public opinion polls, statistical trends on legal and illegal immigration, rates of criminal activity related to immigration and numerous other topics.

Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). <https://www.splcenter.org/>. According to its website, “the SPLC is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.” This organization advocates for the rights of immigrants, seeking to end workplace exploitation, arbitrary detention and deportation. The SPLC also questions the credibility of anti-immigrant groups such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), Center for Immigration Studies and NumbersUSA on the grounds that each was created by John Tanton, a retired Michigan ophthalmologist who, they claim, holds white nationalist beliefs (see the portion of their website at <https://www.splcenter.org/fighting-hate/extremist-files/individual/john-tanton>).

Third Way. <http://www.thirdway.org/>. This organization says that its purpose is to find a middle way between the two extremes now plaguing American politics: “We are a public policy and advocacy organization. Our mission is to create and promote transformational centrist ideas. In a time of polarization and populism, Americans deserve better than what they often get from the extremes. And American prosperity and security depend on solutions that are not defined by ideological orthodoxy or narrow interests. Our agenda: economic growth and opportunity, progress on social issues, deep decarbonization to battle climate change, an approach to national security that is both tough and smart and electoral reforms that empower the middle. If that sounds ambitious and bold, it may be why the *New York Times* labeled us ‘radical centrists.’ Despite its commitment to a centrist agenda, the immigration reports posted on the Third Way website are highly critical of the Trump administration approach.

Urban Institute. <https://www.urban.org/>. This group describes itself as “the trusted source for unbiased, authoritative insights that inform consequential choices about the well-being of people and places in the United States. We are a nonprofit research organization that believes decisions shaped by facts, rather than ideology, have the power to improve public policy and practice, strengthen communities and transform people’s lives for the better.” By entering “immigration” in this website’s search box, the debater can gain access to numerous documents examining the economic impact of immigration, recent legislative proposals and support services for immigrant families.

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/>. The Wilson Center was created by Congress as part of the Smithsonian Institution. The organization says that its purpose is to provide “a gathering place for some of the best and brightest scholars and experts from around the world. Their work is the centerpiece of our activity and informs the nation’s public policy debates with nonpartisan and relevant research and information.” One of the “core areas” for Wilson Center research is “Migration.” By clicking that tab under “Research,” the debater will gain access to dozens of reports on refugee admissions, Temporary Protected Status and border security.

Suggestions for Online Lincoln Douglas Research

A Glossary of Philosophical Terms: This site provides a downloadable PDF containing 34 pages briefly defining major terms in philosophy: http://global.oup.com/us/companion_websites/9780199812998/studentresources/pdf/perry_glossary.pdf

Dictionary of Western Philosophy: Philosophy professor, Garth Kemerling, maintains this site, offering the following description: “This is a concise guide to technical terms and personal names often encountered in the study of philosophy. What you will find here naturally reflects my own philosophical interests and convictions, but everything is meant to be clear, accurate, and fair, a reliable source of information on Western philosophy for a broad audience”: <http://www.philosophypages.com/dy/index.htm>

Guide to Philosophy on the Internet: Operated by Peter Suber of the philosophy department at Earlham College. <http://www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm>

Immanuel Kant: Philosopher of Freedom: This is an excellent site, maintained by Dartmouth College professor, Jason Sorens, offering an introduction to the philosophy of Immanuel Kant. Professor Sorens writes, “If you want to understand the moral basis of a free society, there might be no better place to start than the thought of Immanuel Kant”: <http://www.learnliberty.org/blog/immanuel-kant-philosopher-of-freedom/?gclid=CIn8ys-wrNUCFUW4wAodEogCsA>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: This is a one-stop-shop for finding the meaning of key terms in philosophy as well as a brief overview of the biography and teachings of major and minor philosophers. <http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Introduction to Philosophy: This is an Online philosophy textbook (in seventeen chapters) written by Dallas M. Roark, professor at Emporia State University : <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/roark-textbook/default.htm>

Project Gutenberg: The description offered by this site: “Project Gutenberg offers over 54,000 free eBooks: Choose among free epub books, free kindle books, download them or read them online. You will find the world's great literature here, especially older works for which copyright has expired” <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: This site describes itself as follows: “The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy organizes scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work.” The site allows a simple search box as well as a clickable Table of Contents: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

The Basics of Philosophy: This site offers the following selectable tabs dealing with all aspects of philosophy: General, By Branch/Doctrine, By Historical Period, By Movement/School, By Individual Philosopher: <http://www.philosophybasics.com/>