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.

The "Wayback Machine" offers another option for discovering the dates that a website was first created and last revised. The Wayback Machine archives Internet sites, and is available at https://web.archive.org/. The procedure here is as follows: (1) Copy the URL of the website for which you need the date; (2) Go to the webpage for the Wayback Machine; (3) Paste the URL of the desired website into the search box of the Wayback Machine. For almost all website, the Wayback Machine will then report the time the website was created and the last time it was revised.

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 mean. First, they invite Web page creators to send a request to have their pages indexes. 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 <Direct Commercial Sales> 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). Remember, however, that the Wayback Machine (discussed on the first page of this handout offers an alternative way to find the date of last revision).

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 "Direct Commercial Sales" you want to find the whole phrase, not just pages which contain the individual words "commercial" and "sales." 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 "DIRECT COMMERCIAL SALES" will produce the same results as "Direct Commercial Sales" or "direct commercial sales."

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 Direct Commercial Sales (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word "direct" and "commercial" and "sales" but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around "Direct Commercial Sales" 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, simple 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 AUTHORING 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:

> A. Trevor Thrall & Caroline Dorminey, (Analysts at the Cato Institute), Risky Business: The Role of Arms Sales in U.S. Foreign Policy, March 13, 2018. Retrieved Feb. 15, 2019 from https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/pubs/pdf/pa-836.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 hand-written 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 arms sales 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, available at https://www.findarticles.com/

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." https://www.brookings.edu/

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 Arms Sales Web Sites for Policy Debaters

American Enterprise Institute: www.aei.org

This organization states its purpose as follows: "The American Enterprise Institute is a community of scholars and supporters committed to expanding liberty, increasing individual opportunity and strengthening free enterprise. AEI pursues these unchanging ideals through independent thinking, open debate, reasoned argument, facts and the highest standards of research and exposition." By simply entering "arms sales" in the Web site's search box, the debater can access dozens of recent reports relevant to the topic, including the following: "It is time for Trump to rethink the One-China policy," "Trump, Taiwan: Calling China's bluff" and "Cancel F-16 sale to Pakistan."

Amnesty International USA: www.amnestyusa.org

Amnesty International describes its work in the following way: "We work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied. Currently the world's largest grassroots human rights organization, we investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilize the public and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world." By entering "arms sales" (inside quotation marks) in the main search box, you will find numerous useful reports including the following: "Saudi Arms Deal Would Fan Flames of Conflict," "Zero Tolerance for States Who Flout Arms Trade Treaty Obligations" and "Gender-Based Violence and the Arms Trade Treaty."

Arms Control Association: www.armscontrol.org

This organization describes its purpose and scope as follows: "Since 1971, the Arms Control Association is proud to have played a part in advancing and securing major arms control and nonproliferation successes that have helped avoid bad situations from becoming much worse. The Arms Control Association has shown it can deliver authoritative information, ideas and analysis that help shape the public policy debate in Washington, across the United States and around the world." By entering "arms sales" in the search box, the debater can gain access to such reports as "Time to Ban Cluster Munitions Transfers" and "U.S. Remains Top Arms Provider."

Asan Institute for Policy Studies: www.en.asaninst.org

This organization offers the following description of its history and purpose: "The Asan Institute for Policy Studies was founded by Dr. Chung Mong Joon, honorary chairman and a seven-term member of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, on February 11, 2008. We currently have 17 full-time research fellows, 20 program officers and 32 regular staff members. The institute conducts research in national security and foreign policy, area studies, public opinion and domestic politics, social science methodology and global governance." This website offers useful information about U.S. relations with China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea and other East Asian nations.

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs: www.belfercenter.org

The "About" tab on this website offers the following information: The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs is the hub of Harvard Kennedy School's research, teaching and training in international security and diplomacy, environmental and resource issues and science and technology policy. In 2019, for the sixth year in a row, the Belfer Center was ranked the world's #1 University Affiliated Think Tank by University of Pennsylvania's Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program. The Center has a dual mission: (1) to provide leadership in advancing policy-relevant knowledge about the most important challenges of international security and other critical issues where science, technology, environmental policy and international affairs intersect and (2) to prepare future generations of leaders for these arenas." Recent articles available from this website include "Proposals for U.S. and Chinese Actions on Arms Sales to Taiwan" and "The U.S. Should Stand With Saudi Arabia in Yemen."

Breaking Defense: www.breakingdefense.com

This website describes itself as "the idea hub of the defense world, where the crucial defense ideas are debated, the biggest defense stories are reported and analyzed and the hottest weapons and news videos are shared. Read and watch the top-notch reporting of our team of experienced journalists, knowledgeable analysts, senior defense industry contributors and informed readers. Breaking Defense is produced by Breaking Media, which provides trade-specific news, analysis, thought leadership and resources for senior executives and their organizations in their respective fields." Recent articles include the following: "Arms Sales Way Up – But Trump Wants More" and "Trump Loosens Rules on Drone Sales, Pledges More Arms Sales."

Brookings Institution: www.brookings.edu

The Brookings Institution explains that it pursues three broad goals: "strengthen American democracy; foster the economic and social welfare, security and opportunity of all Americans and secure a more open, safe, prosperous and cooperative international system." By using the main search box to enter names such as "Taiwan" or "Saudi Arabia," the debater can access reports such as "Don't Squeeze Taiwan" and "After Khashoggi, U.S. Arms Sales to the Saudis Are Essential Leverage."

Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies: www.cihrs.org/?lang=en

The English language version of this website provides information about human rights conditions throughout the Arab world, including many countries receiving arms exports from the United States. Recent articles include "Egypt's Attack on Civil Society," "Deteriorating Human Rights Conditions in Egypt" and "Addressing Intensifying Human Rights Violations in Bahrain at the Human Rights Council."

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: www.carnegieendowment.org

This organization describes itself as "a unique global network of policy research centers in Russia, China, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. Our mission, dating back more than a century, is to advance the cause of peace through analysis and development of fresh policy ideas and direct engagement and collaboration with decision makers in government, business and civil society. Working together, our centers bring the inestimable benefit of multiple national viewpoints to bilateral, regional and global issues." By entering "arms sales" in the search box, the debater can gain access to dozens of useful documents including "Philippine Politics Under Duterte," a report questioning the wisdom of continued arms sales to the Philippine National Police for use in that country's drug war.

Cato Institute: www.cato.org

Cato describes its 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." Cato Institute scholars typically argue for a reduced U.S. military role in international affairs. Examples of recent articles are "Risky Business: The Role of Arms Sales in U.S. Foreign Policy" and "Is Trump's Saudi Arms Deal the Worst Deal Ever?"

Center for American Progress (CAP): www.americanprogress.org

The Center's Web site declares that "an open and effective government can champion the common good over narrow self-interest, harness the strength of our diversity and secure the rights and safety of its people. And we believe our nation must always be a beacon of hope and strength to the rest of the world. Progressives are idealistic enough to believe change is possible and practical enough to make it happen." Numerous articles available from this website urge greater emphasis on human rights in the conduct of U.S. foreign policy

Center for Civilians in Conflict: www.CiviliansInConflict.org

This group describes its purpose as follows: "The Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC) is working toward a world where parties to armed conflicts recognize the dignity and rights of civilians, prevent civilian harm, protect civilians caught in conflict and amend harm. Our mission is to work with armed actors and civilians in conflict to develop and implement solutions to prevent, mitigate and respond to civilian harm." Recent publications have the following titles: "If We're Going to Export More U.S. Arms, Let's Do It Smarter," "Modifying U.S. Arms Sales to Reduce Civilian Harm," and "Taking Aim: CIVIC Takes a Closer Look at the Global Arms Trade."

Center for International Policy (CIP): www.internationalpolicy.org

This group says that its mission is "to make a peaceful, just and sustainable world the central pursuit of U.S. foreign policy. We promote cooperation, transparency and accountability in the international relations of the United States. Through research and advocacy, our programs offer common sense solutions to address the most urgent threats to our planet: war, corruption, inequality and climate change." Following are some of the research reports available from this site: "Trends in Major U.S. Arms Sales in 2017" and "Donald Trump's Dangerous Love Affair With Saudi Arabia and Its Impacts on Mideast Security."

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS): www.csis.org

This highly respected think tank focuses on international issues such as "defense and security, regional stability and transnational challenges ranging from energy and climate to global development and economic integration." Recent reports include "Essential Imperatives for U.S. Arms Transfer Policy," "On Strengthening U.S.-Taiwan Relations" and "Saudi Arabia Is a Critical American Security Partner in the Middle East."

Century Foundation, The: www.tcf.org

This New York-based think tank describes its history and mission in the following way: "Over its nearly century-long history, the Foundation has been on the forefront of positive change in some of the most critical areas of domestic and foreign policy, including the promotion of equality of educational opportunity, the strengthening of economic security, the protection of workers and consumers, the empowerment of voters and the fostering of international peace and security." Reports available from this Web site urge greater concern about human rights in decisions about arms sales. Recent reports have the following titles: "The War in Yemen Is a Tragedy – and America Can End Its Complicity" and "How the World Should Respond to Egypt's Authoritarian Resurgence."

CodePink: www.CodePink.org

This group describes itself as "a women-led grassroots organization working to end U.S. wars and militarism, support peace and human rights initiatives, and redirect our tax dollars into healthcare, education, green jobs and other life-affirming programs." By entering "arms sales" in the search box, the debater can gain access to numerous articles opposing arms exports such as "Trump Is Turning the State Department Into a Global Weapons Dealer" and "No Weapons Sales to Saudi Arabia."

Council on Foreign Relations: www.cfr.org/defense-and-security/arms-industries-and-trade

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) publishes a bi-monthly magazine – Foreign Affairs – that is commonly regarded as the top publication dealing with U.S. foreign policy. Unfortunately, Foreign Affairs is available only by subscription – most likely available in your local public library. But CFR also maintains a foreign policy think tank where more than seventy foreign policy experts produce reports that can be accessed from the "Publications" link on the webpage. Examples of these reports include the following: "Thirty Years of U.S. Arms Sales to Middle East Endogenous to Unstable Oil Prices" and "U.S. Arms Sales to Kenya."

Defense Security Cooperation Agency: www.dsca.mil

This agency is the section of the U.S. Department of Defense that facilitates arms sales under the Foreign Military Sales program. Its mission, as explained on the website, "is to advance U.S. national security and foreign policy interests by building the capacity of foreign security forces to respond to shared challenges. DSCA leads the broader U.S. security cooperation enterprise in its efforts to train, educate, advise, and equip foreign partners. DSCA administers security cooperation programs that support U.S. policy interests and objectives identified by the White House, Department of Defense and Department of State. These objectives include developing specific partner capabilities, building alliances and partnerships and facilitating U.S. access." By clicking the tab labeled, "Major Arms Sales," the debater can see all of the most transactions under the Foreign Military Sales program.

Heritage Foundation: www.heritage.org

This conservative think tank promotes the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom and a strong national defense. Using the search option available on this Web site, the debater can find dozens of useful reports on arms sales including "Senate Move to Block Arms Sales to Bahrain Would Undermine U.S. Interests," "U.S. Arms Sales to Taiwan Are Right Thing to Do" and "Why the Arms Trade Treaty Is No Answer for the Saudi Problem."

Hoover Institution: www.hoover.org

According to its Web site, "the Hoover Institution seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas that promote economic opportunity and prosperity, while securing and safeguarding peace for America and all mankind." By entering "arms sales" in the search box on the Web site's home page, the debater can access document such as "America Needs to Sell More Weapons," and "Unplugging from the Saudis."

Human Rights Watch: www.hrw.org

This organization describes its mission as follows: "We scrupulously investigate abuses, expose the facts widely and pressure those with power to respect rights and secure justice. Human Rights Watch is an independent, international organization that works as part of a vibrant movement to uphold human dignity and advance the cause of human rights for all." Searching for "arms sales" in the main search box will provide access to many recent reports including "World Leaders Should Reject Saudi Whitewash," "Reject Planned Arms Sales to Bahrain" and "Trump to Reward Saudi War Crimes With Weapons."

Just Security: www.justsecurity.org

This group explains its mission as follows: "Just Security is an online forum for the rigorous analysis of U.S. national security law and policy. We aim to promote principled and pragmatic solutions to national security problems that decision-makers face. Our Board of Editors includes individuals with significant government experience, civil society attorneys, academics and other leading voices." One interesting feature of this organization is that its co-founder is Ryan Goodman, professor of law at New York University School of Law, who was also an outstanding college debater at the University of Texas. Recent articles available from this site include "How the 'Arms Sales Oversight Act' Could Prevent American Arms from Contributing to the Next Overseas Crisis" and "The Legality of U.S. Arms Sales to Saudi Arabia for Use in Yemen."

New York Times: www.nytimes.com

The New York Times is a premier U.S. newspaper for coverage of national security and privacy issues. As with many newspaper websites, however, access is limited for non-subscribers. This website allows non-subscribers free access to up to 10 articles per month. Find the website's search engine by first clicking the three horizontal bars at the left side of the page. By entering "arms sales" in the search box, the debater can access articles such as the following: "Trump Administration Eases Regulations on Gun Exports, Raising Concerns" and "Arms and the Very Bad Men."

Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies (TBC): www.sanaacenter.org

This group describes itself as "an independent think-tank that seeks to foster change through knowledge production with a focus on Yemen and the surrounding region. The Center's publications and programs, offered in both Arabic and English, cover political, social, economic and security related developments, aiming to impact policy locally, regionally and internationally. Founded in 2014, the Sana'a Center is one of the few independent research centers that continues to operate in Yemen. While the Center maintains cordial relations with all key stakeholders it has remained fiercely unaligned with any of the belligerent parties. The Sana'a Center has thus maintained a unique positioning and ability to work throughout Yemen and beyond, distinguishing itself as an emerging leader in Yemen-related research and analysis." Reports available at this website describe the impact of the War on Yemen on civilians.

Second Line of Defense: www.sldinfo.com

According to its website, this group "has been providing cutting edge interviews with warfighters and the teams that support them. Our interviews have been conducted worldwide and have focused on the evolution and transformation of the defense capabilities of the liberal democracies." Recent articles available from this website describe the benefits of U.S. arms sales to various countries, including Vietnam and Egypt.

Stimson Center's Managing the Arms Trade Project: http://www.stimson.org/programs/managing-arms-trade

This Stimson Center project describes its mission as to examine "the complex global issue of responsible transfer and use of conventional arms. From small arms to unmanned aerial vehicles, managing how conventional arms are transferred or employed is vital in determining the course of global conflicts, civil wars, regional disputes, economic development and humanitarian and human rights challenges." Numerous articles available from this website are of interest to debaters, including "Arms Trade Treaty Still Not Meeting Potential" and "Five Dangers of Giving Commerce Department Oversight of Firearms Exports."

U.S. Congress: www.congress.gov

This Web site has replaced Thomas.gov as the one-stop-shop for access to current legislation. By clicking the "Legislation" tab and using the search box, the debater can receive an update on the status of bills or resolutions dealing with arms sales. Some recent examples in the 116th Congress are H.R. 643: "To Prohibit the Provision of United States Security Assistance to the Government of Saudi Arabia" and H.R. 332: "Arms Sales Oversight Act."

War on the Rocks: www.warontherocks.com

This organization describes itself as "a platform for analysis, commentary, debate and multimedia content on foreign policy and national security issues through a realist lens. It features articles and podcasts produced by an array of writers with deep experience in these matters: top notch scholars who study war, those who have served or worked in war zones and more than a few who have done it all." By entering "arms sales" in the search box, the debater can access articles such as "A New Framework for Assessing the Risks from U.S. Arms Sales" and "Why Washington's New Drone Export Policy Is Good for National Security."

Washington Institute for Near East Policy: www.washingtoninstitute.org

This group describes its mission as "to advance a balanced and realistic understanding of American interests in the Middle East and to promote the policies that secure them. . . . The Institute's senior research staff includes experts on a wide array of political, military, security and economic issues that cover every corner of the Middle East. They speak the region's languages, have lived and worked there and often hail from the region itself. We are proud of the long list of Institute 'alumni' who have gone on to serve in virtually every arm of government that plays a role in Middle East policymaking – including the National Security Council, State Department, Pentagon and intelligence community." The unique feature of the resources available at this website is a seeming focus on Russian efforts to displace U.S. arms sales in the Mideast, such as "The Tactical Side of Russia's Arms Sales to the Middle East" and "Egypt's Arms Deal With Russia."

Yemen Peace Project: www.yemenpeaceproject.org/

This group reports that it "is dedicated to supporting Yemeni individuals and organizations working to create positive change; advancing peaceful, constructive U.S. policies toward Yemen; defending the rights of Yemenis in the diaspora and increasing understanding of Yemen in the wider world." Recent articles available from this website describe a concern about U.S. complicity in war crimes resulting from the Saudi war in Yemen.

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: An Introduction to the Work of Kant:

This is an excellent site – part of the "Great Thinker" series – providing an overview of the moral philosophy of Kant: https://thegreatthinkers.org/kant/introduction/

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/Social Sciences/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/