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Central Library, Vanderbilt University, February 2011

## CMST 100 - FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

The URL for the Vanderbilt Library home page is <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

The URL for the class research guide is <http://libguides.library.vanderbilt.edu/CMST100>.

### Background Information

Vanderbilt Library home page → “Find Articles and Databases” (upper right) → “Search for Database by Name”

These sources give background and history, the current problem, and proposed solutions. They usually cover both the “pro” and the “con” of an issue. They are also good places to look when you are trying to decide on a speech topic to **narrow the topic** to something manageable.

#### **CQ Researcher.** ([Database](#))

**Best overview source for identifying what's at issue and how the topic developed.** Each report covers a single subject. **Browse by topic or search for keywords.** View it as a black & white PDF (choose at top right).

**CQ Weekly [Congressional Quarterly Weekly Report],** 1946-. ([Database](#), 1983-; Latest five years: GOVT REF Alcove JK1.C15-- West Wall)

**Look here to update the CQ Researcher information.** Best source for current developments on political issues and campaigns and on activities of all three branches of government. You may choose “Advanced Search” and use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

#### **Congressional Digest Debates Online: Pro and Con.** ([Database](#))

Includes excerpts of **pro and con** statements (1) by members of Congress, representatives of international organizations or other countries, and interest group representatives, and (2) from Supreme Court briefs. Covers civil rights and the judiciary, economic and environmental policy, government and politics, and foreign policy.

#### **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center.** ([Database](#))

Pro and con opinions about broad controversial issues. Online version also includes links to basic reference articles, selected magazine and newspaper articles, primary sources, statistics, and web sites of important organizations concerned with each issue. **Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.**

#### **Points of View.** ([Database](#))

Basic overview, point, and counterpoint for 200 topics. Includes text of relevant periodical and newspaper articles, as well as a few primary documents. Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.

#### **ProCon.org.** (<http://www.procon.org/>)

Presents research on 40 controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, and primarily pro-con format.

### Periodical and Newspaper Articles

#### **FOR ALL DATABASES, IMPROVE YOUR SEARCH**

- (1) **by going from keyword searching to subject searching, and**
- (2) **by focusing your database: narrow to part of a database or broaden by looking at two databases at once.**

#### **ProQuest.** ([Database](#))

Provides citations and summaries of articles from over 4,000 publications, with many in full-text. Indexes a broad range of social sciences publications, numerous general-interest magazines such as *Time* and *Newsweek*, and recent issues of major newspapers. **E-mail: articles.**


**Search Tip #1:** Before you search, you can limit the number of databases you look at: click on the downward arrow to the right of “Databases:” and choose “Interdisciplinary: Proquest Research Library.”

**Search Tip #2:** After entering your basic search, look at the “suggested topics” above the results you get. Click on the most appropriate one to get a list of the items that focus most on that topic.

**Search Tip #3:** If you still get a high number of results, consider narrowing your topic.

Other tips: consider using the \* (asterisk ) to substitute for word endings.

Also, after entering your basic search, if you don't get many results, look at the list of results. From the titles of the articles listed, you may see other words or terms that will focus your topic better.

Some articles are available in full-text (the whole article is in ProQuest) directly from ProQuest. You must look up others by clicking on “Find a copy” and then on the  button. See if the article is available online through another database or in print in the library. Also, click on “Cite this” and choose the citation style you want from the pull-down list, to find out how to cite the article.

**Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA), 1975- ([Database](#)) and PAIS International, 1972- ([Database](#))**

**WPSA is the most comprehensive Political Science database. PAIS covers current events, public policy issues, and the social sciences in general--including economic and social conditions, government and politics, and international relations. You can search both databases at the same time.** From either database page, click on “change: specific databases” and click on both WPSA and PAIS. Both databases use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings. E-mail: citations.

**Public Policy Issues and Groups (<http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/romans/pubpol.html>)**

Links to top Internet sites on a wide range of controversial issues ranging from abortion to welfare.

## Books

**At the Vanderbilt Library home page → “Find Books and Other Items” (upper left) → “Acorn”**

Acorn is the catalog for all 9 libraries in the Heard Library system. It lists almost all books in all Vanderbilt libraries and most U.S. government publications distributed after July 1976. It lists which periodicals we subscribe to, but does not list individual articles. **Use the \$ (dollar sign) to substitute for word endings.**

## U. S. Government Information – Congress and Statistics

**Congressional Hearings** (GOVT Y 4. \_\_; Microfiche and online)

Testimony on proposed legislation, an existing government program, or an event by representatives for the administration, interest group representatives, state and local officials, members of Congress, and others. Beginning in with 1994 hearings look for a **Web Link** option at the top of the Acorn record to access the online PDF version. If the title does not appear in Acorn, go to GPO Access <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/chearings/index.html>.

**LexisNexis Congressional**, 1789-1969; 1970-. ([Database](#))

Indexes Congressional Research Service (CRS) Reports, Congressional hearings, and other Congressional publications. **CRS Reports** provide information on public policy issues for members of Congress. They often cover the issues involved and the possible alternative solutions. **Hearings** include the text of prepared statements given by expert witnesses at Congressional committee meetings. **The Congressional Record** contains the floor speeches of members of Congress. **Use the ! (exclamation mark) to substitute for word endings.**

**Statistical Abstract of the United States** (U.S. Bureau of the Census), 1879-. (Latest in GOVT REF Alcove C/2(2) C 3.134--South Wall; also READY REF; [Database: http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2010edition.html](http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2010edition.html))

The basic annual U.S. statistical handbook with almost 1,600 tables, of social, economic, and political statistics. Use the source notes at the bottom of each table to lead you to other statistical publications on your topic.

(1) Legalizing marijuana; (2) Hate crimes against gays; (3) Gun control; (4) racial discrimination in employment; (5) green consumers