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Central Library, Vanderbilt University, September 2010

## CMST 100 - FUNDAMENTALS OF PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

### 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 are also good places to look when you are trying to decide on a speech topic. They usually cover both the “pro” and the “con” of an issue.

#### **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. Choose “Advanced Search” and **use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.**

#### **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.**

**Part of the reason for finding out more about the topic is so that you can narrow the topic to something manageable. For example, if you were interested in “immigration,” you might narrow your topic to, say, “Congress should pass a law to provide amnesty for illegal immigrants who have been in the United States for more than five years.”**

### Periodical and Newspaper Articles

Vanderbilt Library home page → “Find Articles and Databases” (upper right) →

**FOR ALL DATABASES, FOCUS YOUR SEARCH BY GOING FROM KEYWORD SEARCHING TO SUBJECT SEARCHING.**

#### **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.

#### **PAIS International,** 1972-. ([Database](#))

Covers current events, public policy issues, and the social sciences in general—including economic and social conditions,

government and politics, and international relations. Indexes a broad range of materials--books, pamphlets, and publications of the U.S. government and of international organizations.

**You can search both PAIS and *Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA)* at the same time. Click on “change: specific databases” and click on that 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>)

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.

## Product Assignment

**Business Source Premier.** [Database]

Provides coverage to virtually all business subjects, including management, marketing, economics, finance, accounting, and international business. Also includes product reviews. After entering the search for your product, check the “Product Review” box before clicking on “search.”

**Business and Industry: RDS Business Suite.** [Database]

A broad-based business information database that includes coverage from over 900 trade and business publications covering business events in over 190 countries around the world. Same software as *Tablebase*. **Use the \* (asterisk) to substitute for word endings.**

**Mintel Reports.** [Database]

Offers market research reports focused on the consumer in the U.S., U.K., European, and some Asian markets. They cover a variety of sectors such as: consumer goods, leisure and travel, personal finances, technology and electronics, retail, clothing, and food, food service, and drink. Each report combines data & analysis of the competitive landscape, market-share analysis and consumer profiles.

(1) Legalizing marijuana; (2) Hate crimes against gays; (3) Climate change; (4) Gun control; (5) Integrating public schools