SIRS Issues Researcher – Search Tips

SIRS Issues Researcher database provides pro and con articles that focus on important social issues. You can search in SIRS by using keywords you create, or you can pick a topic from a list provided by SIRS. The main page of the database contains a search bar, a list of topics, and a list of the 10 most popular Pro/Con issues:

By Topic

If you would like to use a SIRS topic, you can look through the lists on the main page until you find a topic that interests you. SIRS will open a page that gives you an overview of that topic. This page also presents two viewpoints. Each viewpoint will usually be a stance on a controversial issue related to the main topic. Each viewpoint will also have links to articles. By using this tool, you will already have an idea of what the article says before you read it.

Under this section, you will find a list of articles, mostly from newspaper and magazines, that focus on the general topic (for instance, bullying).
Using the Search Bar

If you do not want to use the SIRS preselected topics, you can use the search bar on the main SIRS page to search using your own keyword. If you choose to search this way, you will not see a section discussing the topic. You will only see search results:

You can sort these results by relevance or by date using the drop down box on the top left of the page, but you cannot narrow the results down to a specific date range. Notice that the results tell you the title and publication information for the article. They also provide a summary of the article to help you decide if the article will be useful for you.

Viewing an Article

Once you find an article that looks useful, click on the title. The database will open a page with the entire article available for you to read. Unlike many databases, all of the articles in SIRS are available in full text, meaning you can read the whole article online.
Citing an Article

If you use an article in a paper or project, you must cite it. SIRS makes this easier for you by providing citations in MLA and APA format. To view these citations, you can scroll down to the bottom of the article page, or you can click on the word Cite in the top left of the article page.

![Citations]

**NOTE:** Check these citations! They are not always 100% accurate, and their formatting is not usually correct. At the very least, they do not have the right indentation. For assistance with citations, please visit the library or view the Cite Sources Research Guide.