Tutorial

Points of View Reference Center

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Welcome to EBSCO's Points of View Reference Center tutorial. Points of View is a full-text database that provides users with a series of essays presenting multiple sides of a current issue or event. Using Points of View, students can realize and develop persuasive arguments and essays, better understand controversial issues, and develop analytical thinking skills. This tutorial will introduce you to key interface features as well as the product’s unique content.
The first step is choosing a topic that interests you. To begin, you can either enter a keyword in the **Find** field or use the **Browse by Category** menu to locate articles available in popular topics. Each category features a tree list of three or more topics. Let’s begin by clicking **Arctic Drilling** under the **Energy & Conservation** category.
The dispute over Arctic drilling pits those who are in favor of extracting petroleum from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) against those who back the preservation of the ANWR, as mandated by the United States government decades ago. According to 2005 estimates, the reserves of the ANWR could provide the United States with enough oil to meet increased domestic needs for a single year.

Opponents of drilling in the Arctic include environmental organizations such as Greenpeace, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Congress of American Indians, which represents the Gwich’in Athabaskan Indians. Opponents stress that the temporary fix provided by a limited supply of oil—currently estimated by the US Geological Survey (USGS) at about 7.6 billion barrels—would not justify the negative environmental and cultural impacts of this process. Unlike warm tropical environments, arctic environments are sensitive to disturbances and require tens to hundreds of years to recover. Instead, opponents push for increased research and development of renewable fuel sources, supporting better fuel efficiency standards, and mandatory lifestyle changes that would decrease oil dependence.

Those in favor of Arctic drilling include the Alliance for Energy and Economic Growth, Exxon Mobil and other petroleum companies, and the Alaskan government. Proponents of drilling justify the need for more domestic oil in light of instability in the Middle East, terrorism threats, and high gasoline prices. They estimate that drilling would generate tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars in revenue, thereby benefiting the economy. Furthermore, proponents stress that new technologies and increased
This guide is intended to help you evaluate the controversial topics provided in EBSCO Publishing’s Points of View Reference Center™. Using this analysis will enhance your ability to read critically, develop your own perspective on the issue of Arctic drilling, and write or debate an effective argument on the topic.

**Before You Read**

- In a single sentence, state what you currently think is the controversy surrounding Arctic drilling.
- On the opening screen, Browse by Category, click on "Energy & Conservation," and then click on "Arctic Drilling."
- View the Result List of four records on the Points of View tab that includes this guide.

Each topic in Points of View Reference Center™ has three main Points of View essays. While there may be many opinions on the issue, these essays are designed to provide a base from which you may engage in further analysis:

The Overview provides general background information on the issue.

- The Point essay presents one opinion on the issue in a persuasive position essay.
- The Counterpoint essay offers an alternative or opposite view of the issue.

**As You Read**

Reading all three essays will enable you to better understand the controversy, providing a foundation from which you can broaden your knowledge of the topic.

The **Guide to Critical Analysis** is a feature unique to *Points of View*. For each topic, the guide discusses key criteria in understanding the issue, preparing you for further research on the subject. It also presents exercises to improve critical thinking and debate skills. Next we will look at performing an advanced search for full-text articles available in *Points of View*. Click on the logo to return to the home screen.
From the home page, click the **Advanced Search** link below the **Find** field. Enter your search terms in the **Find** field, then limit your results further by checking the Full Text box, setting a Publication Date range, or selecting a Document Type. Click **Search** to display your results. If you are presented with multiple Find fields, you can use them to narrow or broaden your search.
From the Result List, you can further refine your results by Source Type, Subject, or Publication. To view detailed record information, click the article title. Click the Full Text link to read the complete article, or click the title to view details about the article. Don’t have time to read it now? Sign In to your personal account and click the Add to Folder icon to save the article to your personal folder.
Points of View offers additional features available from the home page, including the ability to browse current event topics using the In the News carousel, or read the In the Spotlight article. In addition, the research guides available on the Reference Shelf can assist with note taking, writing a thesis statement, writing position papers, or developing debate techniques.
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