

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.

Procedures for effective searching:

What about capitalization? For Internet search engines capitalization no longer matters. Searching for “WATER RESOURCES” will produce the same results as “Water Resources” or “water resources.”

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 Water Resources (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word “water” and “resources” but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around “Water Resources” 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, simply 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 *Weekly World News*. 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 AUTHORIZING 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 most cases you can find the date by pasting the URL into the Wayback Machine at <https://web.archive.org/>. The Wayback Machine will report the date that the web page was created and the date of its last revision.

How to prepare debate citations from the Internet. Example:

Cynthia Koehler, (Executive Director, WaterNow Alliance), *Financing the New Water Infrastructure*. Retrieved February 10, 2021 from <https://www.nlc.org/article/2018/05/29/financing-the-new-water-infrastructure/>

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 handwritten 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 water resources 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 Water Resources Web Sites for Policy Debaters

American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP): www.aap.org The AAP describes itself as “an organization of 67,000 pediatricians committed to the optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.” Material available at this website is relevant because of the role the organization plays in identifying the dangers of lead exposure for children. By searching for “lead poisoning” in the search box, debaters can access information about the public health emergency in Flint, Michigan and other places due to the presence of lead in drinking water.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): www.aclu.org The ACLU report that it “is the nation's largest public interest law firm, with a 50-state network of staffed, autonomous affiliate offices. We appear before the United States Supreme Court more than any other organization except the U.S. Department of Justice.” By using the search box under the “Publications” tab, debaters can access numerous reports on the lead pollution crisis in Flint, Michigan.

American Coal Council (ACC): <https://www.americancoalcouncil.org/> This website advocates “for coal as an economic, abundant and environmentally sound fuel source. ACC serves as an essential resource for industry, policy makers and public interest groups. The Association supports activities and objectives that advance coal supply, consumption, transportation and trading.” By selecting the “News and Publication” tab, debaters can gain free access to current and past issues of American Coal, a magazine defending the environmental safety of coal mining and use.

American Enterprise Institute (AEI): www.aei.org According to its website, “The American Enterprise Institute is a public policy think tank dedicated to defending human dignity, expanding human potential, and building a freer and safer world. The work of our scholars and staff advances ideas rooted in our belief in democracy, free

enterprise, American strength and global leadership, solidarity with those at the periphery of our society, and a pluralistic, entrepreneurial culture.” Recent articles and reports offer support for negative positions on the water resources topic; AEI analysts typically defend the use of fracking, question the regulatory success of the Clean Water Act and minimize the impending threat from climate change.

American Fisheries Society (AFS): www.fisheries.org This organization, having just celebrated its 150th anniversary, focuses on the sustainable management of fisheries resources. The AFS publishes five of the world’s leading fish journals, inviting the expertise of biologists, professors, ecologists, aquaculturists, economists, engineers, geneticists and social scientists. By using the search box, debaters can find articles on the relationship between climate change and fisheries, proposals for dam removal and the chemical pollution of rivers and streams.

American Public Works Association (APWA): www.apwa.net According to its website, “the American Public Works Association (APWA) serves professionals in all aspects of public works—a fact that sets it apart from other organizations and makes it an effective voice of public works throughout North America. With a worldwide membership more than 30,000 strong, APWA includes not only personnel from local, county, state/province, and federal agencies, but also private sector personnel who supply products and services to those professionals.” By using the “Resources” tab, debaters can access articles from recent issues of the APWA Reporter Magazine. One article in the December 2020 issue details the leadership that the organization has provided on water policy.

American Rivers: www.americanrivers.org This group reports that its mission is “to protect wild rivers, restore damaged rivers and conserve clean water for people and nature.” The website identifies the following threats to river ecosystems: “Forty-four percent of assessed waterways in the U.S. are too polluted for fishing and swimming. Forty percent of North America’s freshwater species are at risk of extinction. Climate change is bringing more severe droughts and floods, putting increasing pressure on water resources across the country. More than one-third of all counties in the lower 48 states will face higher risks of water shortages by mid-century as a result of climate change. Pollution and habitat destruction threaten fish and wildlife and our own health and well-being.” By clicking the tab, “Threats and Solutions,” debaters can find articles on water conservation, “greening” water infrastructure, eliminating sewage pollution in rivers and opposition to new dam construction.

American Shore and Beach Preservation Association (ASBPA): www.asbpa.org This group describes its mission as “preserving, protecting and enhancing our coasts by merging science and public policy. We advocate for healthy, sustainable and resilient coastal systems to sustain four inter-connected core values provided by shores and beaches: community protection, a strong economy, ecologic health and recreation.” Numerous recent reports can be accessed by selecting the tab for “Publications” and then the option for “White Papers/Fact Sheets.” Recent reports focus on coastal management challenges, managing sea level change and beach restoration projects of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE): www.asce.org This organization's website offers the following explanation of its purpose: "The American Society of Civil Engineers represents more than 150,000 members of the civil engineering profession in 177 countries. Founded in 1852, ASCE is the nation's oldest engineering society. ASCE stands at the forefront of a profession that plans, designs, constructs, and operates society's economic and social engine – the built environment – while protecting and restoring the natural environment. Through the expertise of its active membership, ASCE is a leading provider of technical and professional conferences and continuing education, the world's largest publisher of civil engineering content, and an authoritative source for codes and standards that protect the public." By clicking the "Publications" tab, debaters can access materials on topics including climate change, infrastructure resilience, ports and rivers, coastal management and water resources.

American Sportfishing Association (ASA): www.asafishing.org This organization says that it "has passionately represented the people, policies and ideas that help recreational fishing thrive. We give the industry and anglers a unified voice when emerging laws and policies could significantly affect sportfishing business and participation. We invest in long-term ventures to ensure the industry remains strong and prosperous, as well as safeguard and promote the enduring economic, conservation and social values of sportfishing in America." By clicking the issues tab, debaters can find supporting materials on the following topics: Protecting the globe's land and water, promoting renewable energy, fighting aquatic invasive species, protecting the Everglades, and misguided priorities for western water use.

American Water Resources Association (AWRA): www.awra.org This group describes its objectives as "to advance water resources research, planning, development, management, and education; to convene a common meeting ground for physical, biological, and social scientists, engineers, and other persons concerned with water resources; and to foster collection, organization, and dissemination of ideas and information on water resources science, technology, management, and policy." The "Publications" tab offers free access to some documents, though many are available only to members of the AWRA.

American Water Works Association (AWWA): www.awwa.org The history and mission of this organization is described on its website: "Founded in 1881, the Association is the largest organization of water supply professionals in the world. Our membership includes over 4,300 utilities that supply roughly 80 percent of the nation's drinking water and treat almost half of the nation's wastewater. Our 51,000 total members represent the full spectrum of the water community: public water and wastewater systems, environmental advocates, scientists, academicians, and others who hold a genuine interest in water, our most important resource. AWWA also takes great pride in helping establish two preeminent organizations dedicated to safe water, the Water Research Foundation in 1966 and Water For People in 1991. AWWA unites the diverse water community to advance public health, safety, the economy, and the environment."

Americans Against Fracking: www.americansagainstfracking.org According to its website, this group "is comprised of entities dedicated to banning drilling and fracking for oil and natural gas in order to protect our shared vital resources for future

generations. Our goal, quite simply, is to ban fracking. To that end, we support federal, state and local efforts to ban fracking, enact moratoriums and to stop practices that facilitate fracking like natural gas exports, frac sand mining and the construction of pipelines.” By clicking the “Press Room” tab, debaters can gain access to dozens of reports establishing a negative connection between fracking and the quality of water resources.

Americans Against Fracking: www.americansagainstfracking.org This group declares that its “goal, quite simply, is to ban fracking. To that end, we support federal, state and local efforts to ban fracking, enact moratoriums and to stop practices that facilitate fracking like natural gas exports, frac sand mining and the construction of pipelines.” The “Press Room” tab provides access to numerous recent articles attacking hydraulic fracturing. Unfortunately, the tab is a bit difficult to find. The group’s front page contains a menu icon consisting of three horizontal lines. By clicking the menu icon, debaters can access the “Press Room.”

Association of American State Geologists (AASG): www.stategeologists.org This group “represents the State Geologists of the 50 United States and Puerto Rico. Founded in 1908, AASG seeks to advance the science and practical application of geology and related earth sciences in the United States and its territories, commonwealths, and possessions.” By clicking the “Fact Sheets” tab, debaters can access reports that defend the safety of hydraulic fracturing, assess groundwater resources and provide environmental assessments.

Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA): www.acwa-us.org The ACWA “is a national, nonpartisan professional organization. Association members are the state, interstate and territorial officials who are responsible for the implementation of surface water protection programs throughout the nation.” By selecting the “Documents” tab, debaters can access reports primarily focusing current legislative proposals such as the Drinking Water Infrastructure Act of 2020, the Clean Water for All Act and the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions.

Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA): www.asdwa.org This website explains that “ASDWA members are the drinking water program administrators in the 50 states, the five territories, the Navajo Nation, and the District of Columbia. (15 of the 50 state drinking water programs are located in state departments of health, 32 are located in state departments of the environment or natural resources, and 3 are in mixed departments of health and environment.)” The organization’s purpose is described as follows: “Support states in their efforts to protect public health through the provision of safe drinking water; collect and make information accessible to all state program administrators to assist them in fulfilling their duties; encourage the exchange of experiences and information among state drinking water programs; promote responsible and feasible drinking water program requirements at the state and Federal levels; and provide advice, counsel, and expertise to organizations and entities having an interest in drinking water, including Congress, U.S. EPA, and other Federal, state, and local organizations.” By clicking the “Newsroom” tab, debaters can access hundreds of recent articles dealing with topics such as EPA regulation of water quality, the Flint water crisis and the cleanup of toxic

waste sites.

Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFM): www.floods.org This organization was founded in 1977 for the purpose of “reducing flood loss in the nation.” The group approaches this mission by “educating policymakers on sound floodplain management policies and practices; improving the knowledge of floodplain managers through the Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) certification program; delivering on-going professional development and training events; conducting applied research, promoting emerging technologies, and developing tools that address all aspects of flooding and floodplain management; and increasing international awareness on flooding and flood loss reduction.” By selecting the “Resource Center” tab, debaters can access reports and news articles on river and coastal flooding.

Association of State Wetland Managers (ASWM): www.aswm.org This organization was “established in 1983 to promote and enhance protection and management of wetland resources, to promote application of sound science to wetland management efforts and to provide training and education for our members and the public.” By clicking the “Publications” tab, debaters can access the current issue of Wetlands News Digest, though earlier issues are restricted to members only. Other reports available from the “Publications” page include topics such as water quality standards for wetlands, state-based wetlands regulations, and best practices for wetlands restoration projects.

Breakthrough Institute: www.thebreakthrough.org This group describes itself as a “global research center that identifies and promotes technological solutions to environmental and human development challenges.” The mission statement offers the following assessment: “We believe that human prosperity and an ecologically vibrant planet are possible at the same time. Societies are already experiencing peak use of many natural resources; some previously destroyed forests are returning as we use less land to farm more food; our energy sources are becoming denser and cleaner; and pollution — including carbon emissions — is falling in most post-industrial nations.” By using the search box, debaters can access numerous articles defending hydraulic fracturing as a proper response to climate change; the argument is that access to cheap natural gas offers the best way to phase out dirty coal-fired power plants.

Cato Institute: www.cato.org According to its website, “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.” By entering “water resources” into the search box, debaters can access recent articles defending hydraulic fracturing and limiting federal regulatory power in favor of state-based or free market solutions to water resources issues.

Center for American Progress: www.americanprogress.org This organization is an “independent nonpartisan policy institute that is dedicated to improving the lives of all Americans, through bold, progressive ideas, as well as strong leadership and concerted action. Our aim is not just to change the conversation, but to change the country.” Recent articles dealing with water resources deal with wetlands protection, the effects of oil and gas production on water supply and the role of federal agencies in water

infrastructure.

Clean Water Action: www.cleanwateraction.org This group declares its mission as “to protect our environment, health, economic well-being and community quality of life. Clean Water Action organizes strong grassroots groups and coalitions, and campaigns to elect environmental candidates and to solve environmental and community problems.” The “News and Updates” tab provides access to dozens of recent articles urging greater action to protect water resources.

Clean Water for All: www.protectcleanwater.org This organization declares its dedication “to clean water, for drinking, for fishing and other recreation, for economic stability and for community health. The Clean Water for All Coalition brings together advocates with diverse backgrounds and interests at local, regional, and national levels, to promote and conserve clean water for everyone.” Numerous articles available from this website focus on improving water infrastructure, reducing agricultural pollution and protecting water resources from the impacts of climate change.

Energy and Policy Institute: www.energyandpolicy.org According to its website, “the Energy and Policy Institute exposes attacks and deception by fossil fuel companies, utilities, their trade associations and front groups through investigative research and analysis. By disseminating our information to media, allies, and decision makers, we seek to disrupt fossil fuel-funded misinformation, separate polluters from policymakers, and accelerate the transition to a clean economy.” By clicking on the “Reports” tab, debaters can access articles about the degradation of water resources by coal-fired power plants and the negative environment impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

Clean Water Fund: www.cleanwaterfund.org This group aims to “improve environmental conditions, prevent or clean up health-threatening pollution in hundreds of communities and to strengthen policies locally and nationally. Clean Water Fund's mission is to develop strong grassroots environmental leadership and to bring together diverse constituencies to work cooperatively for changes that improve their lives, focused on health, consumer, environmental and community problems.” One of the links available on the home page has this label: “Climate Change Is Water Change.” By clicking the link, debaters will find articles connecting energy policy and climate change to the protection of water resources.

Energy in Depth: www.energyindepth.org This organization was created by the Independent Petroleum Association of America as a “research, education and public outreach campaign focused on getting the facts out about the promise and potential of responsibly developing America’s onshore energy resource base – especially abundant sources of oil and natural gas from shale and other ‘tight’ formations across the country.” By clicking the link, “Fracking 101,” debaters can access the industry answers to the claims that fracking threatens groundwater, causes earthquakes or promotes climate warming resulting from methane leaks. The “Resources” tab will provide access to articles defending the role of natural gas production in slowing climate change.

Environment America: www.environmentamerica.org The “About Us” link offers the following explanation of this group’s mission: “Every day, we see more heartbreaking

evidence of the damage being done to our planet: climate change, plastic pollution, wildlife disappearing forever. But we also see the solutions all around us, practically begging us to adopt them: solar and wind power, electric cars and buses, more walkable and ‘bikeable’ cities, reusing and repairing stuff instead of throwing it away, and on and on. Environment America’s mission is to transform the power of our imaginations and our ideas into change that makes our world a greener and healthier place for all.” The “News” tab provides access to articles about the impact of energy technologies on climate change.

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF): www.edf.org This group declares its mission as “to preserve the natural systems on which all life depends. Guided by science and economics, we find practical and lasting solutions to the most serious environmental problems. What distinguishes Environmental Defense Fund is the combination of what we protect and how we protect it. We work to solve the most critical environmental problems facing the planet. This has drawn us to areas that span the biosphere: climate, oceans, ecosystems and health.” By entering the word, “water,” in the search box, debaters can access reports entitled “Rebalancing Water Use in the American West,” “Lead Pipes: A Threat to Kids Across America” and

Environmental Integrity Project: www.environmentalintegrity.org According to its website, this group “empowers communities and protects public health and the environment by investigating polluters, holding them accountable under the law, and strengthening public policy.” The “Reports” tab on this website will provide access documents such as “EPA Rollback of Limits on Toxic Water Pollution from Power Plants” and “A Right to Clean Air and Pure Water.”

Environmental Working Group (EWG): www.ewg.org This organization’s mission is “to empower people to live healthier lives in a healthier environment. With breakthrough research and education, we drive consumer choice and civic action. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to protecting human health and the environment.” From the “Research” tab, debaters can access articles such as the following: “Farming and the Environment,” “Toxic Beaches,” and “The High Cost of Algae Blooms in U.S. Waters.”

Everglades Coalition: www.evergladescoalition.org This organization is “an alliance of more than sixty local, state and national conservation and environmental organizations dedicated to full restoration of the Greater Everglades Ecosystem, from the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes into Lake Okeechobee and to the estuaries, through the River of Grass, out to Florida Bay and the Keys. The Coalition works in the public arena to inform decision makers on the collective view of the conservation community regarding the greater Everglades ecosystem. Some of the tools used by the Coalition include policy papers, comparisons of proposed policy decisions focused on sound science, and public comments on critical aspects of restoration.” By selecting the “Position Papers” tab, debaters can access reports describing the importance of the Everglades as well as current threats to its future.

Family Farm Alliance: www.familyfarmalliance.org This group declares that its focus is “on one mission – To ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water

supplies to Western farmers and ranchers.” The website adds that it “is a powerful advocate before the government for family farmers, ranchers, irrigation districts, and allied industries in 17 Western states to ensure the availability of reliable, affordable irrigation water needed to produce the world’s food, fiber, and fuel.” Mirroring the language of the 2021-22 policy resolution, this group calls for “protecting western water resources.” Some of the documents available from the “Resources” tab include “The Time Is Now to Invest in Western Water Agriculture” and “Irrigation Modernization: Water Infrastructure for the 21st Century and Beyond.”

Food and Water Watch: www.foodandwaterwatch.org The mission statement on this group’s website is as follows: “Our food, water and climate are under constant assault by corporations who put profit over the survival of humanity. They have seized control of the very institutions that were built to protect us. We mobilize people to reclaim their political power, hold our elected officials accountable, and resist corporate control—ensuring we all have the essential resources we need to thrive. This is a fight we must win, because this planet is the only one we get.” By clicking the “Resources” tab, debaters can access articles calling for a ban on fracking, limiting toxic emissions from power plants, and restricting agricultural runoff pollution from factory farms.

Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA): www.ipaa.org This is the organization representing the interests of oil and gas energy producers: “Today, IPAA represents the thousands of independent oil and natural gas producers and service companies across the United States. America’s independent producers develop 91 percent of the nation’s oil and natural gas wells. These companies account for 83 percent of America’s oil production, 90 percent of its natural gas and natural gas liquids (NGL) production, and support over 4.5 million American jobs.” By clicking the “Issues & Policies” tab, debaters can access documents defending the environmental safety of offshore drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA): www.nacwa.org This is the organization representing water quality professionals in cities and counties throughout the United States: “For 50 years, the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) has been the nation’s recognized leader in legislative, regulatory and legal advocacy on the full spectrum of clean water issues, as well as a top technical resource for water management, sustainability and ecosystem protection interests. NACWA represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide. The Association’s unique and growing network strengthens the advocacy voice for all member utilities, and ensures they have the tools necessary to provide affordable and sustainable clean water for all.” By clicking the “News & Publications” tab, debaters can access articles from recent issues of the Association’s publication, Clean Water Advocate.

National Audubon Society: www.audubon.org This organization declares its purpose as to protect “birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.” By clicking the “Magazine & News” tab, debaters can access articles in Audubon, the flagship journal of the National Audubon Society. Recent articles deal with pesticide runoff from agricultural fields, plastic pollution in coastal waters, and loss of wetlands.

National Ground Water Association (NGWA): www.ngwa.org This organization describes itself as a “community of groundwater professionals working together to advance groundwater knowledge and the success of our members through education and outreach; advocacy; cooperation and information exchange; and enhancement of professional practices.” By selecting the “Publication & News” tab, debaters can access recent articles dealing with pesticide pollution of drinking water, cleanup of toxic Superfund sites, and regulation of lead in drinking water.

National League of Cities (NLC): www.nlc.org According to its website, “the National League of Cities is an organization comprised of city, town and village leaders that are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. With over 90 years of dedication to the strength, health and advancement of local governments, NLC has gained the trust and support of more than 2,000 cities across the nation. Together, our mission is to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.” By entering “water” in the website’s search box, debaters can access such articles as “Financing the New Water Infrastructure,” “Cities Celebrate Passage of America’s Water Infrastructure Act,” and “Water Infrastructure, Environment and Public Lands.”

National Wildlife Federation (NWF): www.nwf.org This group describes itself as “America’s largest and most trusted conservation organization, works across the country to unite Americans from all walks of life in giving wildlife a voice. We’ve been on the front lines for wildlife since 1936, fighting for the conservation values that are woven into the fabric of our nation’s collective heritage.” By selecting the “Educational Resources” tab, debaters can access reports including “The Protective Value of Nature,” “Drifting Toward Disaster,” and “Oil and Gas Methane Pollution.”

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC): www.nrdc.org The NRDC sees its mission as “to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. We believe the world’s children should inherit a planet that will sustain them as it has sustained us. NRDC works to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water and the wild, and to prevent special interests from undermining public interests.” By using the website’s search box, debaters can access numerous useful documents including “Watered Down Justice,” “Stewardship of Wetlands and Soils Has Climate Benefits,” and “Pesticides Are Killing People.”

Nature Conservancy: www.nature.org/en-us/ The Nature Conservancy’s mission is “Our mission is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends. Our vision is a world where the diversity of life thrives, and people act to conserve nature for its own sake and its ability to fulfill our needs and enrich our lives.” Documents available from this site include “Towards a Blue Revolution” and “It Is Now or Forever: Let’s Stop the Flow of Plastic Waste.”

Pew Charitable Trusts: www.pewtrusts.org This organization describes its mission as to “improve public policy by conducting rigorous analysis, linking diverse interests to pursue common cause and insisting on tangible results; inform the public by providing useful data that illuminate the issues and trends shaping our world and to invigorate civic life by encouraging democratic participation and strong communities. In our

hometown of Philadelphia, we support arts and culture organizations as well as institutions that enhance the well-being of the region's neediest citizens.” By clicking the “Projects” tab, debaters can access materials relevant to the water resources topic, such as “preventing ocean plastics,” “protecting coastal wetlands” and “U.S. public lands and rivers conservation.”

ProPublica: www.propublica.org ProPublica produces investigative journalism with a declared mission to “expose abuses of power and betrayals of the public trust by government, business, and other institutions, using the moral force of investigative journalism to spur reform through the sustained spotlighting of wrongdoing.” By clicking the “Environment” tab, debaters can access numerous documents dealing with hydraulic fracturing, the damming of western rivers, degradation of coastal regions and loss of wetlands.

Sierra Club: <https://www.sierraclub.org/topics/clean-water> This group’s website provides the following statement of its history and mission: “The Sierra Club's first members, including John Muir, were originally focused on the conservation of California's Sierra Nevada mountains. Since then, the Sierra Club has evolved into an organization that works to advance climate solutions and ensure everyone has access to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment.” From this website, debaters can access reports on dam removal, coastal pollution, protection of wetlands, lead pollution of drinking water and water conservation.

Southern Environmental Law Center: www.southernenvironment.org This organization declares its mission as to use “the power of the law to champion the environment of the Southeast. Our team of more than 80 dedicated attorneys stands up for all the things you love about this special region—clean water, healthy air, mountains and forests, the coast.” By selecting “Water” from the website’s “Big Issues” tab, debaters can access materials describing threats to water resources including coal mining, hydraulic fracturing, uranium mining and agricultural runoff.

US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE): <https://www.usace.army.mil/> The purpose of this division of the U.S. Army is to “Deliver vital engineering solutions, in collaboration with our partners, to secure our Nation, energize our economy, and reduce disaster risk.” The USACE is responsible for the maintenance of the nation’s public waterways, including dams, locks, harbors, reservoirs, river channels, and beaches. While this website provides access to hundreds of technical publications, there are also a few more policy-oriented materials that will be of interest to debaters. One such publication is *The Corps Environment*; debaters can gain free access to this publication by simply scrolling half-way down the main USACE webpage. The February 2021 issue offers articles on the Corps’ “Environmental Operating Principles,” the “Great Lakes Restoration Initiative,” and “Synchronizing Efforts to Sustain Ecosystems.”

U.S. Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.uschamber.com/> This group describes itself as “the world’s largest business organization representing companies of all sizes across every sector of the economy. Our members range from the small businesses and local chambers of commerce that line the Main Streets of America to leading industry associations and large corporations.” By entering “water resources” (using quotation

marks) in the website's search option, the debater can access advocacy statements on various aspects of water policy, including the use of public-private partnerships, the Business H2O Water Innovation Summit, and reauthorization of the Clean Water Act.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-topics/water-topics> The stated mission of the EPA is "to protect human health and the environment. The EPA works to ensure that Americans have clean air, land and water." From the EPA's water topic page, the debater can select options for lead in drinking water; wastewater treatment; invasive species; National Estuary Program; and Oceans.

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/SocialSciences/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/>