



Tuesday's Tip

information provided by Adriance Memorial Library to make your life a little bit easier

ProCon.org

February 12, 2019

ProCon.org presents pro/con arguments and background information on controversial topics. ProCon.org's mission statement is: "Promoting critical thinking, education, and informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward, nonpartisan, primarily pro-con format."

You can choose a topic by category or by Topics A-Z.

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Uber, Lyft, Etc. - Top 3 Pros & Cons

SURVEY - Which topics would you lik...

Uber, Lyft, Etc. - Top 3 Pros & Cons

Homework - Pros & Cons

Binge Watching - Top 3 Pros & Cons

PROS AND CONS OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES

By Category | Topics A-Z

MOST POPULAR

- ▶ Medical Marijuana
- ▶ Gun Control
- ▶ Animal Testing
- ▶ Death Penalty
- ▶ Recreational Marijuana

HEALTH & MEDICINE

- ▶ Medical Marijuana
- ▶ Euthanasia & Assisted Suicide
- ▶ Vaccines for Kids
- ▶ Milk - Is It Healthy?
- ▶ Abortion

EDUCATION

- ▶ School Uniforms
- ▶ Standardized Tests
- ▶ Tablets vs. Textbooks
- ▶ College Education Worth It?
- ▶ Teacher Tenure

Each topic page includes Background of the issue, Top Pro & Con Arguments, Top Pro & Con Quotes, and Cite This Page. Clicking the "Cite This Page" link will show proper bibliographic citations for that specific page in APA, Chicago, MLA, and Turabian style formats.

Twitter

WhatsApp

Facebook

Instagram

LinkedIn

Pinterest

Around seven out of ten Americans (69%) use social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Pinterest, as of 2018, up from 26% in 2008. [26] [199]. On social media sites, users may develop biographical profiles, communicate with friends and strangers, do research, and share thoughts, photos, music, links, and more.

Proponents of social networking sites say that the online communities promote increased interaction with friends and family; offer teachers, librarians, and students valuable access to educational support and materials; facilitate social and political change; and disseminate useful information rapidly.

Opponents of social networking say that the sites prevent face-to-face communication; waste time on frivolous activity; alter children's brains and behavior making them more prone to ADHD; expose users to predators like pedophiles and burglars; and spread false and potentially dangerous information. [Read more background...](#)

Top Pro & Con Arguments

Pro 1

Social media spreads information faster than any other media. 78.5% of traditional media reporters polled used social media to check for breaking news. [190] 59% of Twitter users and 31% of Facebook users polled followed breaking news on these sites. [191] Social media sites are one of the top news sources for 46% of Americans, compared to 66% for television, 26% for printed newspapers, and 23% for radio. [192] Social media users have been responsible for reporting events before traditional media outlets, including the Paris attacks in France on Nov. 13, 2015 (Twitter, Facebook, and Vine), [193] the Ebola outbreak in Nigeria and Sierra Leone in July 2014 (Twitter), [194] the Boston marathon bombing on Apr. 15, 2013 (Twitter), [195] and the Aurora, CO, theater shooting on July 20, 2012 (Twitter and YouTube). [3] President Donald Trump said that the immediacy that Twitter affords him is the reason why he tweets, noting that press conferences and press releases take too long to reach the public. [271]

Con 1

Social media enables the spread of unreliable and false information. 64% of people who use Twitter for news say that they have encountered something they "later discovered wasn't true," and 16% of Twitter news users say that "they had retweeted or posted a tweet they later discovered to be false." [227] A study published in the journal *Science* found that lies spread six times faster than the truth on Twitter, and "fake news" is retweeted more often than true news. [279] In the three months prior to the 2016 US presidential election, false news stories about the two candidates were shared a total of 37.6 million times on Facebook. [289] A federal grand jury indictment announced in Feb. 2018 by special counsel Robert Mueller said that a Russian group created phony social media accounts "to reach significant numbers of Americans for purposes of interfering with the U.S. political system." [279] A University of Michigan study found that even when false information is corrected, the number of people who see or share the correction via social media is lower than number who saw or shared the false information in the first place. [272]

Social Networking Homepage

Background of the Issue

Top Pro & Con Arguments

Top Pro & Con Quotes

RECOMMENDED to you...

- Did You Know?
- Readers' Comments
- Video Gallery
- Ballot Selfies State Laws

+ DIG DEEPER...

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ProCon.org is a great resource for choosing controversial topics and finding research materials presenting both sides of an issue. It is a good starting point for providing background information on a topic.