Opposing Viewpoints Database  

With our country in a stalemate of division over how we a mold a future for America, it seems like a good time to review our Opposing Viewpoints in Context database. This database includes pro/con viewpoints on major controversial issues we face as a society. Often understanding (not necessarily agreeing with) points of view different from our own can help us find middle ground, or at least comprehension of where others are coming from.

As most students are taught in school, when learning critical thinking skills, news reporting is altogether different from editorializing. Reporting is a dispassionate, objective stating of the facts addressing — Who? What? When? Where? Why? and How? This is the basis of legitimate news and professional journalism. Editorializing is expressing a point of view and using objective data-or provable facts- to persuade agreement with a set conclusion. Opinion is just that.

This database does more than amass prominent viewpoints—it also contains related data that can be useful in defending or disputing the information that rational viewpoints are based on.
Opposing Viewpoints is available for free to all New York State residents through the NOVELNY program run by the New York State Library. We have the database linked at our website, and you access it with your barcode number on your library card and PIN— but anyone within the geographic boundaries of New York can access it by clicking this link: https://galesupport.com/novelGeo/?loc=[LOCATIONID]&db=OVIC and typing in their library’s name.

For more information or other reference and collection development assistance, call the Reference & Information Desk at Adriance Memorial Library at (845) 485-3445 x 3702 or (800) 804-0092 x 3702.
Law enforcement in the United States has undergone significant transformations since police forces were first introduced. During the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, criticisms have mounted that policing has not adapted to best fulfill its duties to the public. Proponents of police reform have proposed both gradual and radical methods to address issues related to biased policing and acts of excessive force and brutality. Gradual methods include increased and updated training standards as well as increased communication and cooperation with communities. More radical methods include calls to eliminate federal funding of police and reduce local police budgets, as well as distributing police work to other groups such as social work and mental health professionals.

- Police reform has been pursued throughout the history of US policing on both incremental and systematic levels, though the tangible results of specific reforms have been mixed.
- The police system in the United States has evolved since its creation, and organizations like police unions developed alongside it in order to protect police interests.
- Many police philosophies and tactics remain rooted in historic and systemic racism, leading to conflicts with minority civilians even as community-oriented policing becomes more common.
- Common focuses of police reform include changes to training methods and focus, redistribution of department budgets and tasks, and bans on violent tactics such as chokeholds.
- High-profile killings of African Americans in the 2010s and 2020 have led to increased demands for police reform and accountability, including efforts to "defund the police."

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Recently, we’ve heard a very diverse group of people share the words of the late US Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan: “everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not his own facts”.

**Opposing Viewpoints** gives you the tools to strengthen your argument with facts and supporting evidence.