

Topics for a Proposal for Change Essay 2: National or Global Change

Education: standardized testing, funding, college costs, arts in schools, online/distance education, reading

Gender and Sex issues: equal pay, Princess fantasy, transgender rights, maternity

Social Progress: welfare, homelessness, children's services

Law and Crime: domestic violence, juvenile offenders, civil disobedience, human trafficking, intellectual property rights

Media: wikis, YouTube, privacy, reality TV, celebrity activism, sex and violence in the media

Government: healthcare, privacy, refugee resettlement, tax reform, sales tax v. income tax, foreign aid, U.S. and world democracy, campaign reform, electoral reform, term limits

Commerce and Industry: airline subsidies, farming subsidies, organics, GMOs, sustainable development, fracking, outsourcing, credit/credit cards, war profiteering

Rights: religious freedom, transparency/cameras (police, doctors), drones, immigration, torture, animal rights

Race and Ethnicity: sports teams' names, affirmative action, school busing/integration

Medicine and Health: preventative medicine, mental health, caring for aging family, cosmetic/plastic surgery, cosmetic genetics, vaccines, behavioral drugs for children, contraception coverage

Earth and Environment: National Parks, land development, ride sharing, public transportation, endangered species, noise or light pollution, overfishing

Miscellaneous: space program, fostering/adopting, daylight savings, participation trophies, salary caps

Need more ideas? Check out *Points of View Reference Center* or *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*. Both these databases are available through the Warner Library.

These resources are great for providing an overview of the topic as well as pro and con positions. However, these sources ARE NOT scholarly articles. They are great for broad reading to introduce yourself to the topics and the main points and controversies related to the topic. You may cite them in your paper, and you should if you draw information from them, but they DO NOT match any of the required sources. These sources would be in addition to the other, more credible research that you should be conducting. The non-expert writers of these articles do exactly the same thing you are doing in your paper: reading sources from credible, expert authors to put together an argument. In a way, citing these sources is like citing a friend's paper based on good research. Another strategy is to use the articles' bibliographies to find credible sources, as you would when using *Wikipedia* for background reading.

Often, students begin with broad topics. Background reading can help you begin to narrow your topic. The list on the first page can help you as well!

For example, maybe you are interested in writing about climate change. This topic is huge!!! Plus, you need to have a solution to offer by the end of your paper. Climate change is simply too complex (that's an oxymoron, I think!) to solve in a 8-10 page paper.

One direction you could go is consumer waste.

Do you want the government to subsidize companies that use recycled materials?

Do you want to outlaw water bottles?

Or maybe you want to consider alternative fuel sources.

Do you want the government to support the building of windmills?

Do you want to tax gas heavily so that consumers are forced to consider electric cars?

Make sure you narrow your topic to fit an 8-page paper.

You may have noticed that with a larger audience (America, rather than Johnstown or JHS), the issues and solutions will be more complex. In the local proposals, we worked from logic mainly, even when we used experts and research to support our ideas. In this assignment, you will need to do much more research to present an educated view of the problem and the solution. In fact, you may need to do research to identify solutions you can suggest. I have no idea why there aren't a bazillion windmills already. What are we waiting for? I'm going to have to research to figure it out!

Just to sum that up, plan to research all areas of your paper: the background/theory/idea, the details of the problem, AND the best solution.