

About *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*

Opposing Viewpoints in Context is the premier online resource covering today's hottest social issues, from Offshore Drilling to Climate Change, Health Care to Immigration. *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* helps students research, analyze and organize a broad variety of data for conducting research, completing writing assignments, preparing for debates, creating presentations and more.

In addition to the engaging, streamlined interface and media-rich topic pages, the product's unprecedented collection of content and curriculum-focused tools that help students explore issues from all perspectives include:

- Pro/con viewpoint essays
- Topic overviews
- More than 300 primary source documents
- Biographies of social activists and reformers
- Court-case overviews
- Periodical articles
- Statistical tables, charts and graphs
- Images
- Videos
- Podcasts, including weekly presidential addresses and premier NPR programs

About the Common Core

The Common Core State Standards set forth objectives to help students achieve college and career readiness in an increasingly competitive global economy. These K-12 standards address English language arts (ELA) and mathematics; the ELA standards cover literacy in history/social studies, science, and technical subjects. The Common Core Standards emphasize the critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills that are essential for twenty-first-century learners.

Common Core Standards stress the importance of nonfiction, asking students to:

- evaluate texts carefully for meaning and make inferences
- determine central ideas and analyze their development
- analyze the text's structure
- assess the impact of the author's point of view on content and style
- evaluate content in diverse formats and media
- evaluate the author's arguments and claims
- compare two or more texts on similar themes or topics

Using *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* to Support the Common Core

By offering a rich database of pro/con viewpoint essays, *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* supports the Common Core objectives that ask students to critically analyze nonfiction writing, assessing explicit meaning and making inferences. Pro/con viewpoint essays foster skills of analyzing structure and assessing techniques used to convey meaning or persuade an audience. Such essays also provide fodder for students learning to evaluate arguments and test the validity of the author's claims. The variety of multimedia content in *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* supports standards that require students to evaluate content in diverse formats and media. In these and many other ways, *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* supports the goals of the Common Core, as well as other national and state standards, to help students achieve college and career readiness and to compete on an increasingly complex global stage. For details on how *Opposing Viewpoints in Context* supports specific Common Core standards, see below.

For more information on products that directly align Gale's online resources to high school curricula as well as to Common Core and other national and state standards, investigate Classroom in Context (CLiC), a web-based curriculum portal that transforms text-based instructional content into a more enriched, interactive learning experience and effectively develops 21st-century skills for students.

Anchor Standards for Reading

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.1

Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context offers topic overviews as well as thousands of subjective viewpoints on controversial social issues. Viewpoint text, designed to persuade, helps students develop the skill of making inferences and drawing conclusions.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.2

Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context features thousands of articles written from numerous perspectives, allowing ample opportunity to analyze the development of themes, examine the author's argument, and identify the details supporting that argument. Viewpoint text is subdivided by plainly written subheads to aid readers in determining the organizing principle and the central points of the text. Guided reading questions that precede viewpoint text further assist readers in locating the writer's main ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.4

Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.

In Opposing Viewpoints in Context, the subjective nature of viewpoint text—written to persuade—encourages users to identify the writer's use of particular words and phrases for maximum effectiveness.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.6

Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context, by juxtaposing multiple perspectives on a given issue, encourages readers to assess a writer's intention and agenda, and to explore the impact of that agenda on the content and style of the essay. Each viewpoint is preceded by biographical information about the author of that text, giving readers the context for evaluating that writer's unique perspective.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.7

Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context features a variety of multimedia elements (images, videos, podcasts, interactive maps, charts, tables, and graphs) to accompany articles, essays, viewpoints, and other text. Multimedia elements allow students to ingest information in a number of formats, exploring the same content from several angles: textual, numerical, visual, aural, and so on.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.8

Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context includes thousands of examples of persuasive viewpoints, giving students ample opportunity to evaluate authors' arguments and assess the validity of their claims. When such essays are paired in pro-con arrangements, readers hone critical thinking skills by comparing argumentation styles and techniques, and by evaluating sometimes contradictory information.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.9

Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context addresses complex and multifaceted social issues by presenting numerous perspectives that often conflict with each other. The authors of viewpoint text use a variety of approaches to convey their point of view, offering students opportunities to compare and contrast techniques and evaluate their effectiveness.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.R.10

Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

All content in Opposing Viewpoints in Context is assigned content levels to assist readers in finding appropriate texts as well as in challenging themselves by gradually advancing to more complex informational text.

Anchor Standards for Writing

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.1

Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.

The abundance of persuasive essays on a vast array of topics in Opposing Viewpoints in Context provides students with the examples they need to write arguments supported by valid reasoning and sufficient evidence. The numerous pro-con pairings in Opposing Viewpoints in Context offer students exemplars for writing about claims and counterclaims. The many other content types—including videos, charts, graphs, and maps—lend additional perspectives and evidence to support arguments.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.2

Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context provides a wide range of content types (content overviews, persuasive viewpoint text, reference, multimedia, as well as newspaper, magazine, and journal articles) that provide students with the research they need to clearly and accurately write informative and explanatory texts.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context is divided into easy-to-navigate portal pages based on controversial, newsworthy social issues. These portal pages are further divided into various content types that provide students with extensive and varied research on these topics. This format enables users to conduct brief or extensive research as needed, synthesizing multiple sources to answer focused questions and prepare substantive research projects.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8

Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

The viewpoint text in Opposing Viewpoints in Context begins with brief biographical information about the author, offering students contextual information to better assess the vantage and credibility of the source. The presence of multiple viewpoints on a given topic enables students to better assess the credibility of each, while also providing a wide variety of perspectives to draw from for research papers and other assignments.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

The varied topics and content types supplied in Opposing Viewpoints in Context provide a basis for student analysis and reflection and offer numerous types of evidence for inclusion in research papers and projects. By providing the content in different reading levels and formats, users can advance through progressively more difficult research. Students will be able to correctly cite the information through the use of the citation generator.

Anchor Standards for Speaking and Listening

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.1

Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

The subjective content on a vast number of controversial topics offered in Opposing Viewpoints in Context enables students to embrace a broad diversity of views, ideas, and information, providing a stable foundation on which to build their own ideas.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.2

Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context presents a variety of multimedia content (images, videos, podcasts, interactive maps, charts, tables, and graphs), enabling students to integrate these content types into papers and presentations.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.3

Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

The inclusion of podcasts in Opposing Viewpoints in Context enables students to listen to radio interviews and other pieces, evaluating the speaker's style, technique, and effective use of evidence to make a point.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.SL.5

Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context offers students a digital solution for research on today's hot-button issues. The content types include numerous examples of visual data in the form of charts, graphs, and maps to further enhance presentations and other projects.

Anchor Standards for Language

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.3

Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

The viewpoint text in Opposing Viewpoints in Context, written to persuade, offers students examples of using, even manipulating, language to influence readers. By comparing multiple views on a given topic, students can analyze the particular stylistic tools that make one essay more persuasive than another.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.L.4

Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context features both general reference content—for example, topic overviews—and specialized content, such as articles from academic journals, that provide students with abundant and varied materials for their research.