LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides
Forensics Team Help: Lincoln-Douglas Debate

Table of Contents:
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LexisNexis Scholastic is an invaluable research tool for high school students. Whether you’re a student looking up a legal case for a homework assignment, or a debate team member gathering news articles for your next competition—LexisNexis Scholastic is a go-to resource.

Look to these guides for insight on the best ways for forensics teams to use the Scholastic database. This guide, in particular, deals with the Lincoln-Douglas Debate event. For the research scenario, we will use the September/October Lincoln-Douglas debate topic from the National Forensic League, found at nationalforensicleague.org.

Resolved: The United States ought to extend to non-citizens accused of terrorism the same constitutional due process protections it grants to citizens.

The guide covers the following searches to gather evidence:
1. Browse the U.S. Constitution/Federal & State Codes.
2. Use law reviews to provide evidence and quotes.
3. Find news editorials that contain affirmative and negative points.
4. Find Landmark Cases about due process.
Browse the US Constitution/Federal & State Code:
As your debate topic is directly relevant to a constitutional amendment, what better way to start your research than by going directly to the source: the U.S. Constitution. If you have a topic that is relevant to federal or state code, these are also browseable inside of Scholastic.

1. Click on the Legal section, then the Federal Statutes, Codes & Regulations search form.

2. Click the Browse link next to the Constitution of the United States.

3. The Table of Contents for the U.S. Constitution will appear. Scroll past the articles until you see the Amendment section. Click the + sign to expand the section.

4. Click on the Amendment 5 and Amendment 14 links to read the two Constitutional amendments relevant to the subject of “due process.”
Use Law Reviews to Provide Evidence and Quotes:
Scholastic’s large collection of law reviews will help you form positive and negative arguments by reading expert opinions from the legal world. These law reviews will usually help researchers understand the philosophical theory of the topic, so important in L-D debate.

1. Click the Legal section, then the Law Reviews search form.
2. Type a subject or phrase to start your search. Choose relevant words and phrases like “terrorism,” “due process,” and “non-citizens” in this scenario.
3. Click the red Search button to run your search.
Find News Editorials:
News editorials will help debate team members form negative and affirmative arguments.

1. After selecting News, click on All News.
2. Type a subject or phrase to start your search. Choose relevant words and phrases like “terrorism” and “due process.”
3. Change the sources to US Newspapers & Wires, since you want results specifically from the U.S.
4. Check the “Editorials & Opinions” box.
5. Click the red Search button to see your results list.
Find Landmark Cases about Due Process:
Insight from Landmark Supreme Court Cases can add weight to the resolution.
Check the Landmark Cases form for examples relevant to your topic.

1. Click on the Legal section, then the Landmark Cases search form.

2. Scroll and browse through the list of Landmark Supreme Court Cases to see cases relevant to your topic. A “Find” (Ctrl+F) search might be useful here. Ctrl+F and searching “due process” found three examples of cases that were relevant to due process. Also, there is an entire section on Terrorism.