LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides
Forensics Team Help: Policy 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 **Policy Debate** event. For the research scenario, we will use the 2012/2013 Policy Debate Topic from the National Forensic League, found at *nationalforensicleague.org*.

Resolved: The United States federal government should substantially increase its transportation infrastructure investment in the United States.

The guide covers the following searches to gather evidence:

1. Use the index to find relevant news.
2. Find editorial and opinion articles.
3. Add broadcast transcripts to your evidence.
4. Find international examples of increased transportation funding.

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Forensics Team Help: Policy Debate

Use the Index to Find Relevant News Articles:

Each quarter, all news articles are indexed, or "tagged," by topic in LexisNexis Scholastic. This function helps users find the most relevant articles on a specific topic.

1. Click on the **Power Search** form.

2. To search the index, you should use a search string. This string will help to search a specific part of the document where the index terms are placed. Type **TERMS**(construction spending AND transportation infrastructure).

3. (optional) To see more index term options, click the **Subject** link and browse or search the lexicon in the Add Topics pop-up box. Click red **Search** button and view results list.

4. Choose a **period of time**, like the previous year. Also, select your **source**. In this case, Newspapers.

5. Click red **Search** button and view results list.

When you get to the results screen, you will find that the index terms you input will appear at the bottom of the documents with a high relevancy ranking score (usually over 90%).

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Forensics Team Help: Policy Debate

Find Editorial and Opinion Articles:
This function is helpful when you would like to look up an editorial article.

After clicking the News section:

1. Click the **All News** link to get to the All News form.

2. Type a **subject or phrase** to start your search. Choose relevant words and phrases like **"government spending," "transportation," "infrastructure"** or all three.

3. Change the sources to **US Newspapers & Wires**, since you want results specifically from the U.S.

4. Check the **"Editorials & Opinions"** Box.

5. Press the red **Search** button to see your results list.

LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides
Forensics Team Help: Policy Debate

Add Broadcast Transcripts to Your Evidence:

Broadcast transcripts, often forgotten by many researchers, can be very useful inclusions in your body of evidence.

1. Click on the **News** section and then the **TV & Radio Transcripts** form.

2. Type a **subject or phrase** to start your search. Choose relevant words and phrases like **"government spending," "transportation," "infrastructure"** or all three.

3. Narrow your search to the **most recent year** for the newest transcripts, select **Previous year** from **Specify Date** pull-down menu.

4. Keep the default **"All Transcripts"** selected, unless you have a specific transcript in mind.

5. Press the red **Search** button to see your results list.

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Find International Examples:

Insight from examples in other countries can sometimes add weight or add doubt to the resolution. Use the All News form.

1. Click on the **News** section and then the All News form.

2. Type a relevant **subject or phrase** to start your search, like **"transportation."** You may leave the default as **Everywhere** or change it to **Subject Terms** to search the index, as we did in the earlier guide.

3. Narrow your search to the **Previous year** for the newest articles.

4. Select **All News (English)** from the Sources pull-down.

5. Select **Country** from the Article Location section and then pick a country, like India.

6. Click **Search** button and view results list.