

LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides

Forensics Team Help: Public Forum Debate

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If you have trouble accessing the LexisNexis® Scholastic database, contact one of your school librarians. If they need to speak with someone at LexisNexis, please have them call 800.227.9597, ext. 54846.

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 **Public Forum** event. For the research scenario, we will use the October 2012 Public Forum Topic from the National Forensic League, found at *nationalforensicleague.org*.

Resolved: Developed countries have a moral obligation to mitigate the effects of climate change.

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. Take an international approach to research.

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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.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis Power Search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Power Search' selected. The main area is divided into sections: 'Search Type' (Terms & Connectors selected), 'Search Terms' (empty), 'Specify Date' (Previous 6 months selected), 'Add Index Terms' (Company, Industry, Subject, Geography, People), 'Select Source' (All News (English) selected), and 'Add Section Search' (empty). On the right is the 'Add Topics' section, which includes a 'Find Terms' field containing 'Climate Change' and a 'Find' button. Below this is a list of subject results with checkboxes, including 'Climate Change' which is selected. At the bottom right is an 'OK - Add to Search' button. Red arrows with numbers 1 through 6 point to the 'Specify Date' dropdown, the 'Subject' link, the 'Find' button, the 'Climate Change' term in the subject results, the 'Climate Change' checkbox, and the 'OK - Add to Search' button respectively.

Click the “Power Search” link on the left to get to the Power Search form.

1. Narrow your date for more recent results. This is a broad topic, so choose **Previous 6 months**.
2. Choose a **Source**. In this case, “**All News (English)**” is selected, but “**Newspapers**” is a great option as well.
3. Click **Subject** to launch the Subject index term finder in a new window.
4. Click **Find** to do an index term search. Type a word that relates to your search. In the image above, the word “**Climate Change**” is used. Click the red **Find** button.
5. Index terms related to Climate Change will appear, select the “**Climate Change**” term by clicking the small **box** next to the term. Search for other terms like “**Global Warming**” as well.
6. Hit the **OK - Add to Search** button. Click **Search** on the first screen to run a search.

After you complete the rest of your search, you will find that the index term “Climate Change” should appear at the bottom of documents on your hit list with a high relevancy score.

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Find Editorial and Opinion Articles:

This function is helpful when you would like to look up an editorial article.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis 'All News' search interface. On the left is a navigation menu with 'General Searching' and 'News' highlighted. The main area contains search fields and options. Red arrows with numbers 1 through 5 point to the following elements:

- 1. The 'All News' link in the left navigation menu.
- 2. The search input field containing 'climate change'.
- 3. The 'All News (English)' dropdown menu under 'Select Source'.
- 4. The 'Editorials & Opinions' checkbox under 'Article Type'.
- 5. The red 'Search' button.

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 **“climate change”** and **“developed countries.”**
3. Change the sources to **“All News (English)”** to include publications from all over the world.
4. Check the **“Editorials & Opinions”** box.
5. Press the red **Search** button to see your results list.

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Add Broadcast Transcripts to Your Evidence:

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

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis search interface for TV & Radio News Transcripts. The interface includes a left sidebar with navigation options like 'News', 'Legal', and 'Legislation'. The main content area is titled 'TV & Radio News Transcripts' and contains a search form. The search form has a 'Search For:' field with the text 'climate change OR global warming', followed by a dropdown menu set to 'And', another field with 'developed countries', another dropdown set to 'in', and a final dropdown set to 'Everywhere'. A red arrow labeled '1.' points to the 'TV & Radio Transcripts' link in the sidebar. A red arrow labeled '2.' points to the search form area. A red arrow labeled '3.' points to the 'All Transcripts' checkbox in the 'Select Source(s):' section. A red arrow labeled '4.' points to the red 'Search' button. Below the search form, there is a 'Specify Date:' dropdown set to 'All available dates' and a 'Select Source(s):' section with a grid of checkboxes for various news sources. A tip at the bottom suggests using 'Edit in Power Search' for more options.

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 “**climate change**” or “**global warming**” and “**developed countries.**” In this search “**moral!**” is also included. The ! is a wildcard symbol in Scholastic, so all words starting with moral will be returned in the search—like moral, morality, or morals.
3. Keep the default **All Transcripts** selected, unless you have a specific transcript in mind.
4. 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.

The screenshot shows the LexisNexis 'All News' search interface. A left sidebar contains navigation links: 'News' (with a red arrow labeled '1.' pointing to 'All News'), 'Newspapers & Wires', 'TV & Radio Transcripts', 'Foreign Language', and 'Business & Industry'. Below these are 'Legal', 'Legislation', 'Companies', 'Subject Areas', 'Sources', and 'Help & Instructions'. The main search area is titled 'All News' and includes a 'Help' link. A disclaimer states 'Use of this service is subject to Terms and Conditions'. The search criteria are: 'Search For: climate change' in 'Everywhere', 'And' 'developed countries' in 'Everywhere', and 'Add Row'. The 'Specify Date:' dropdown is set to 'All available dates' (arrow '3.'). The 'Select Source:' dropdown is set to 'All News (English)' (arrow '4.'). The 'Article Type:' section has several checkboxes, none of which are selected. The 'Article Location:' section has radio buttons for 'US State', 'Canadian Province', 'Country' (selected), and 'World Region'. A dropdown menu under 'Country' shows 'China' (arrow '5.').

1. Click on the **News** section and then the **All News** form.
2. Type a relevant **subject or phrase** to start your search, like “**climate change**.” 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 six months 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 China.