LexisNexis® Scholastic—Research Guides
Forensics Team Help: Public Forum Debate

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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 **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.

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.

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.

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.

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.