Table of Contents:
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.
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. 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.
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.
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.
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.