# Using DISCUS to Argue

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## Scdiscus.org

- State supported database for students, educators, everyone.
- Smart search
- Search by grade level, by subject, or A to Z
- discus2020
- learn1!
- Go to Opposing Viewpoints in Context database

## Reading Tools

- Content Reading Levels
- 1 Lower elementary
- 2 Upper elementary
- 3 Middle school
- ► 4 High school
- 5 High school and college
- Text to speech
- Larger fonts

## Opposing Viewpoints in Context



- Pro and con viewpoint essays
- Articles, maps, charts
- Images, videos
- Targeted to social studies and science
- Lexile levels
- Covers "hot" social issues, everything from gun control to immigration, to marijuana
- Differing viewpoints it gives you both sides of every topic
- Content is updated daily
- Google and Microsoft integration
- Download, print, share or email articles

#### Text Features

- Overview article
- ► Featured viewpoints are selected by the database's editors, will show both sides
- Key events
- Critical thinking questions
- Vocabulary
- Timelines
- Viewpoints are essays that have a commentary and questions to consider as you are reading the article (so 2 citations)
- Also have related resources

#### More features

- Text to speech
- Translation
- Enlarge text
- Citation: MLA is the default, can be changed to APA or Chicago
- Highlights (different colors for pro and con)
- Notes (for annotating)
- To save highlights and notes, send article to google drive or one drive, email the article, print or download it
- To get back to the article, use "Get Link" tool. Don't use the URL in your browser.

#### Research Process

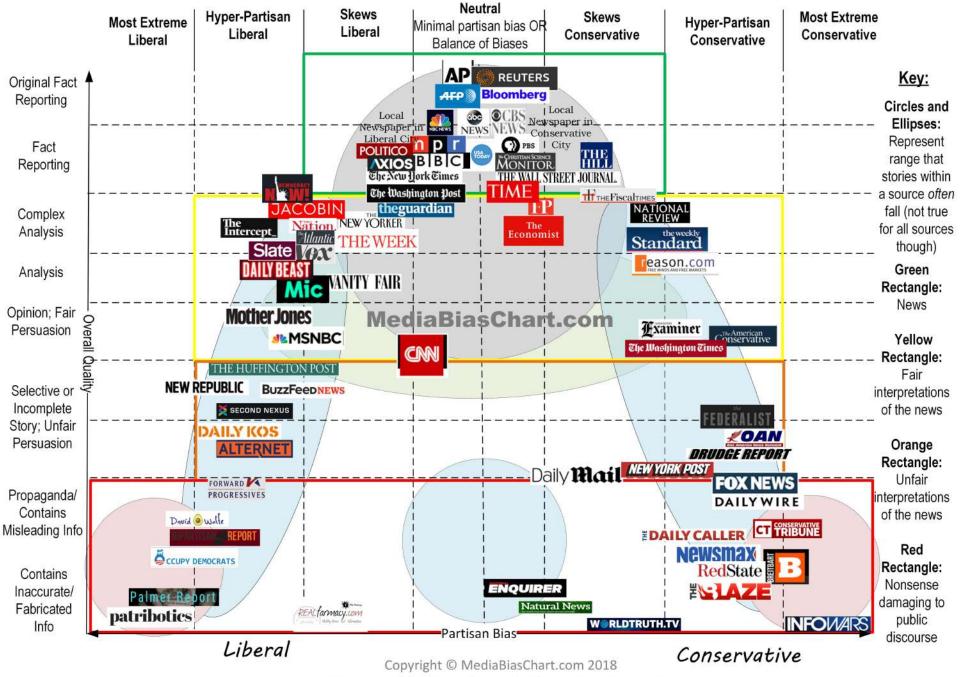
- Task Definition what do you have to produce
- Information seeking strategies determine all possible sources, select best sources
- Locate sources, find information within sources
- Use the information read, extract relevant information, notes
- Synthesis organize and present your information
- Evaluation judge what you produced, compare it to your rubric

### **Handouts**

- Judging information
- Concept webs
- Organizing a report
- Thesis statement
- Argument
- Conclusion

#### Fake News and Social Media

- Over 400 different featured issues in the database
- "misinformation" vs. "disinformation"
- Social media supports "echo chambers" lack of balanced information
- Troll farm actors focus on divisive issues (like immigration) to divide the public into opposing sectors, to make the voting tendencies of each group easier to manipulate
- Influenced the 2012 Russian election, the 2016 US Presidential election, the 2018 US mid terms and will influence the 2020 US Presidential election
- Are sites publishers or platforms? Publishers are legally liable, platforms are not.
- MLA citations available.



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