

# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

Responsive design optimized for use on mobile devices and desktop computers.

Navigate issues by thumbnail image or category/list view.

Provides focused coverage and clear analysis of timely complex and controversial issues.

Unbiased overviews and clear pro/con presentations promote critical thinking and reading.

*Exploring Issues* is a new, cost-effective, and accessible digital resource that provides focused coverage and clear analysis of timely, complex, and controversial issues. Every topic is covered with an unbiased overview, thorough and clear pro/con presentations, critical-thinking questions, color infographics and statistics that support positions, cited primary and secondary source quotes, and an annotated list of related organizations for further research. The easy site navigation is enhanced with tools such as Google Drive, PDF download, e-mail/share, and MLA/APA citation export. Its user-friendly and clean design make it a **“must have” resource for middle and high school research papers, debate preparation, persuasive essay writing, and class discussions.**

# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

Clean and user-friendly design makes information easy to access and doesn't overwhelm the user.

Student and teacher resources include downloadable guides about critical thinking and writing.

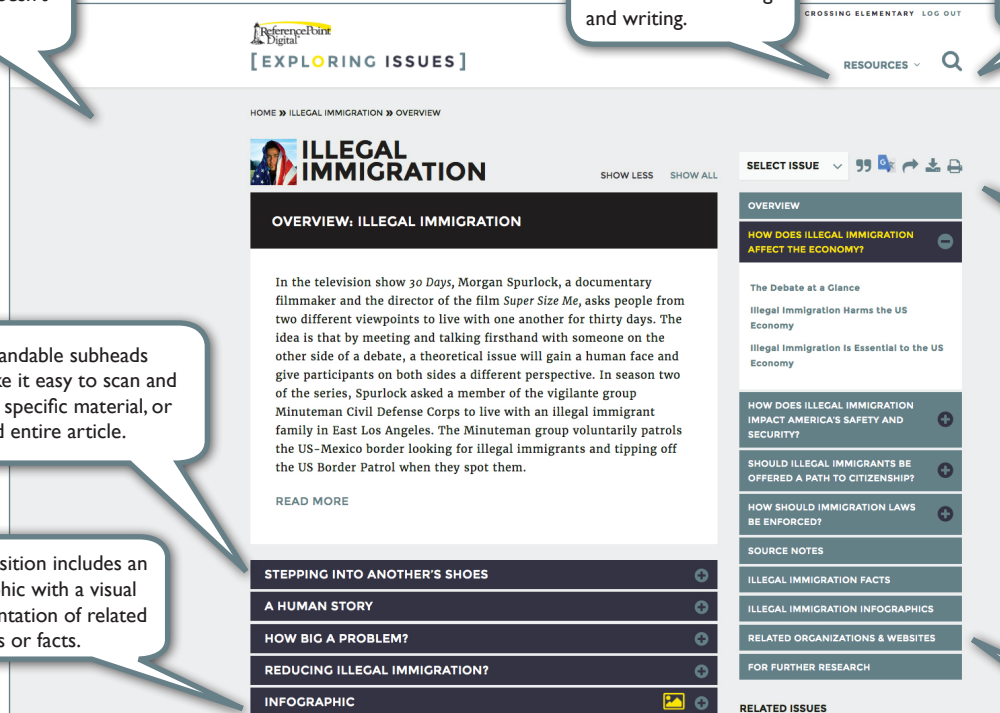
Search within all topics with keyword search.

Expandable subheads make it easy to scan and find specific material, or read entire article.

Each position includes an infographic with a visual representation of related statistics or facts.

Each page includes citation, translation, sharing via email or Google Classroom, download to a computer or Google Drive, and printing tools.

Each issue includes infographics gallery, facts page, related organizations, and source note list



Each issue in *Exploring Issues* is made up of a series of articles including an overview of the issue, debates at a glance summarizing each related controversy, and pro/con viewpoint articles. Each article includes documented primary and secondary quotes and a full-color captioned infographic. *Exploring Issues* has been designed to offer easy access to the information needed to get a basic understanding of the controversies surrounding each featured issue. Additional tools include printing, downloading, sharing, translation, and automatic page citation in MLS, APA, and Chicago styles. The site is integrated with Google Classroom and Google Drive for easy use in the classroom or for assignments.

# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

3

DEBATE AT A GLANCE

The screenshot displays the 'Exploring Issues' website interface. At the top, the 'ReferencePoint Digital' logo and '[ EXPLORING ISSUES ]' are visible. A navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION', and 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT THE ECONOMY?'. The main content area is titled 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION' and 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT THE ECONOMY?'. A central section, 'THE DEBATE AT A GLANCE', features two columns of arguments. The left column, 'Illegal Immigration Harms the US Economy', includes a quote from 'The defenders of illegal aliens' and a list of points: 'Illegal immigrants take jobs away from American citizens and drive down wages.', 'Illegals are a burden on the American taxpayer because they use social services such as health care, food stamps, and low-cost housing without paying enough back in taxes to offset the cost.', and 'The children of illegals place an unfair burden on the education system.' The right column, 'Illegal Immigration is Essential to the US Economy', includes a quote from 'The research has found that immigrants—including the poor, uneducated ones coming from south of the border—have a big positive impact on the economy over the long run, bolstering the profitability of American firms (and) reducing the prices of some products and services.' and a list of points: 'Illegal immigrants mostly take unskilled or low-level jobs that US citizens do not want.', 'The money illegal immigrants provide to Social Security helps support the aging US population.', and 'Because illegals are afraid to access many social services that they pay into through their jobs, they help subsidize these services for others.' Both columns have a 'SEE FULL ARGUMENT' button. A sidebar on the right lists various topics under 'SELECT ISSUE', including 'OVERVIEW', 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT THE ECONOMY?', 'The Debate at a Glance', 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IMPACT AMERICA'S SAFETY AND SECURITY?', 'SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE OFFERED A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP?', 'HOW SHOULD IMMIGRATION LAWS BE ENFORCED?', 'SOURCE NOTES', 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FACTS', 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INFOGRAPHICS', 'RELATED ORGANIZATIONS & WEBSITES', and 'FOR FURTHER RESEARCH'. A 'CITE THIS PAGE' button is located at the bottom of the main content area. The footer contains copyright information and links to 'HOME', 'PRIVACY POLICY', and 'TERMS'.

Cited quotes from each side of the argument give voice to each viewpoint.

Source descriptions encourage critical reading and thinking.

The main arguments for each position are outlined.

Pro/Con presentation of issues supports critical thinking and reading.

Every article includes automatic citation in APA, MLS, and Chicago Styles.

# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

The screenshot displays the 'Exploring Issues' website interface. At the top, the 'ReferencePoint Digital' logo is on the left, and 'VALLEY CROSSING ELEMENTARY' is on the right. Below the logo is the title '[ EXPLORING ISSUES ]' and a 'RESOURCES' dropdown menu. The main content area is titled 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION' with a sub-header 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HARMS THE US ECONOMY'. A quote from 'The defenders of illegal aliens...' is featured. Below this is a 'FOCUS QUESTIONS' section with three numbered questions. On the right, a 'SELECT ISSUE' dropdown menu is shown, followed by a list of topics including 'OVERVIEW', 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AFFECT THE ECONOMY?', 'The Debate at a Glance', 'Illegal Immigration Harms the US Economy', 'Illegal Immigration is Essential to the US Economy', 'HOW DOES ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IMPACT AMERICA'S SAFETY AND SECURITY?', 'SHOULD ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BE OFFERED A PATH TO CITIZENSHIP?', 'HOW SHOULD IMMIGRATION LAWS BE ENFORCED?', 'SOURCE NOTES', 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION FACTS', 'ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION INFOGRAPHICS', 'RELATED ORGANIZATIONS & WEBSITES', and 'FOR FURTHER RESEARCH'. At the bottom, a list of topics is shown: 'INTRODUCTION', 'EMPLOYERS ARE MOTIVATED BY GREED', 'ILLEGALS ARE A DRAIN ON THE ECONOMY', 'THE US DOLLAR BOLSTERS THE MEXICAN ECONOMY', and 'INFOGRAPHIC'. Callout boxes highlight the following features:

- Each viewpoint article opens with documented quote expressing view.
- Focus questions engage the reader, encourage critical thinking, and can be used for class discussions and writing assignments.
- Each position is supported by full-color captioned infographics and primary and secondary source quotes with citation export.
- Easily navigate to different issues with drop down menu.
- Question/Answer issue navigation guides users directly to the information they need.
- Accordion navigation allows users to easily scan the main arguments for a specific topic, or view the complete article.

# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

Each viewpoint article includes an introduction presenting the main points discussed.

The screenshot shows the 'EXPLORING ISSUES' interface with the article 'EMPLOYERS ARE MOTIVATED BY GREED' selected. The left sidebar contains a table of contents with links to 'FOCUS QUESTIONS', 'INTRODUCTION', 'EMPLOYERS ARE MOTIVATED BY GREED', and 'ILLEGALS ARE A DRAIN ON THE ECONOMY'. The main content area displays the introduction of the article, which discusses the economic impact of illegal immigrants on the US economy and the American worker.

This screenshot shows the same article as the previous one, but with a callout box highlighting the footnotes. The callout states: 'All quoted materials include easily accessed footnotes.' The article text discusses the motivations of employers for hiring illegal immigrants, citing factors like the 'almighty dollar' and the lack of competition from citizens.

This screenshot shows the article 'ILLEGALS CONTRIBUTE TO THE TAX BASE'. A callout box highlights a pullquote: 'Pullquotes that include information about each speaker/writer support each viewpoint and encourage critical reading.' The article text argues that illegal immigrants are an economic force that puts money back into the US economy through sales taxes and property taxes.

The screenshot displays an infographic titled 'Government Spends Millions on Services for Undocumented Immigrants'. The infographic is a bar chart showing the average expenditure per household for various services. The services and their approximate costs are: Direct Benefits (\$4,000), Transportation (\$3,000), Administrative Support (\$2,000), Police, Fire, Public Safety (\$1,500), Welfare (\$1,000), and Education (\$500). A callout box states: 'Each viewpoint is supported by a full-color captioned infographic presenting statistics and facts visually.'



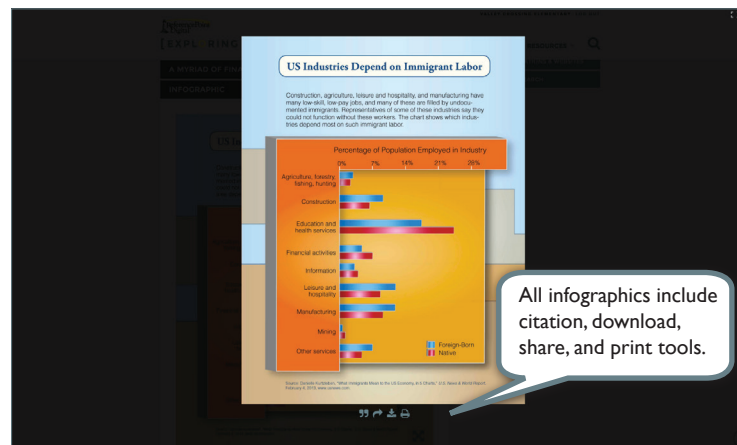
# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

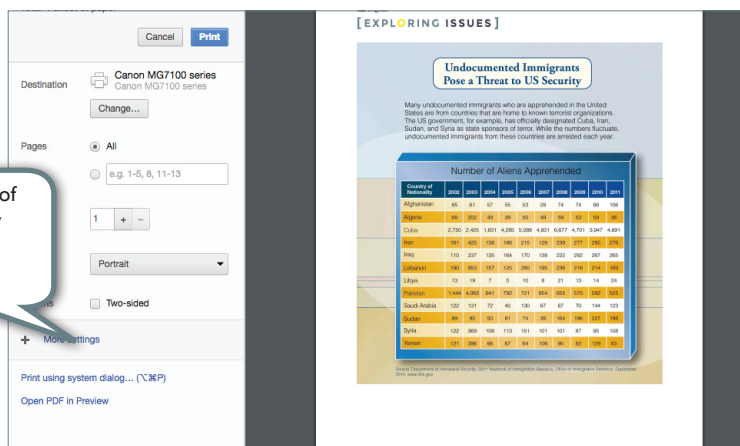
Access infographics from article or from issue infographics gallery.



All infographics include citation, download, share, and print tools.



Print friendly version of infographics can easily be used as classroom materials.



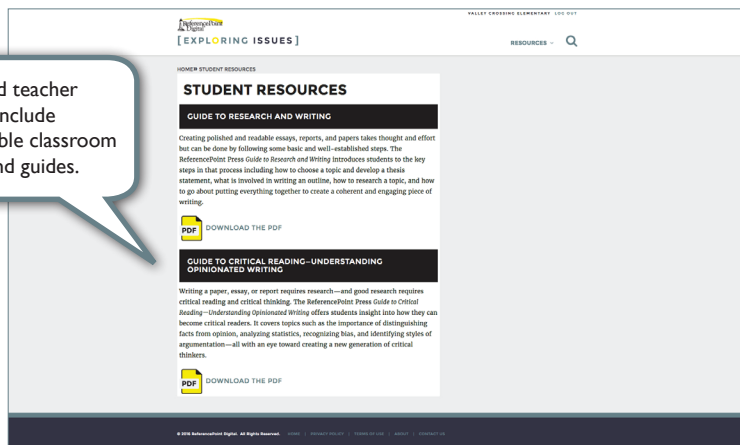
Each infographic presents facts and statistics visually and includes caption and source.



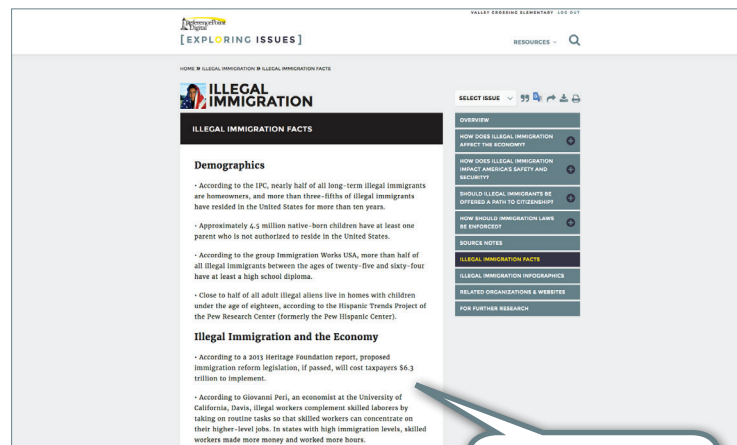
# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

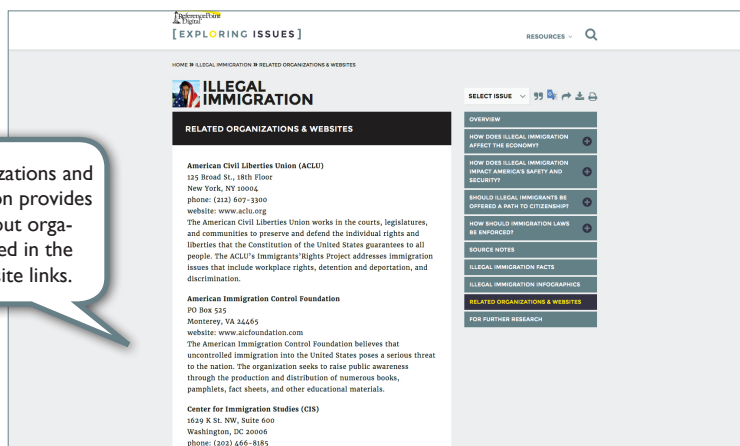
Student and teacher resources include downloadable classroom activities and guides.



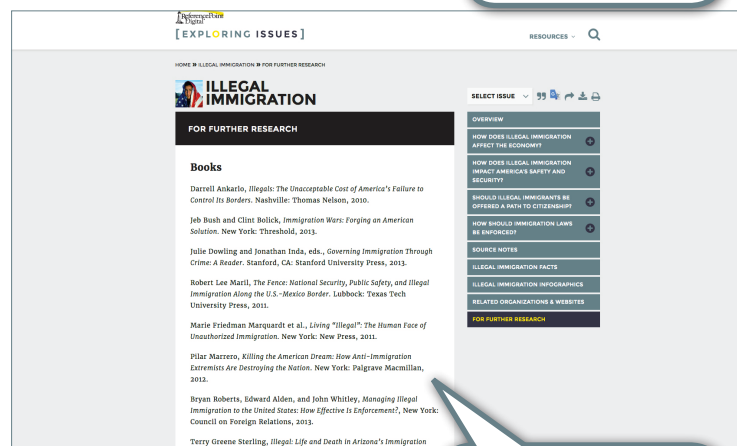
Facts section for each issue provides organized facts and statistics for use in discussion, writing, and research.



Related Organizations and Websites section provides information about organizations involved in the issue with website links.



For Further Research section includes books, periodicals, and Internet sources for additional information with links.



# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

## CONTENT

- Unbiased and easy to use resource supports research papers, debate preparation, persuasive essays, and class discussions
- Promotes critical thinking and reading
- Clean and accessible design invites users and helps them get the information they need
- Issue content includes both objective, unbiased overviews and clear pro/con arguments
- Debate at a Glance summarizes pro/con arguments' main points
- Numerous captioned, full color infographics and statistics support positions
- Hundreds of primary and secondary source quotes with citation export
- Growing collection of issues with updates as needed

## FEATURES

- Related organizations with annotations and links
- Google Drive and Google Classroom integration
- Print, copy, PDF download, and share tools
- Instant translation into 100 languages
- Downloadable student and teacher guides for writing, research, and class activities and discussions
- MLA/APA citation tool for primary content
- Responsive design optimized for use on mobile devices and computers
- 24/7 unlimited user access
- Free downloadable MARC records for cataloging available
- \$295 single site license, multi-site pricing available

## STUDENTS

- Easily research current issues for writing assignments, debates, and class projects.
- Download infographics for use in presentations and projects.
- Find documented quoted materials from both sides of an issue.
- Use related resources for additional research.
- Download student resources for assistance in critical reading and writing.

## TEACHERS

- Easily prepare critical thinking lessons.
- Find a wealth of materials to use for classroom discussion, writing exercises, and issue analysis.
- Get ideas for current issues classroom activities from downloadable teacher resources.
- Incorporate materials into assignments and classroom activities using Google Classroom.
- Use *Exploring Issues* materials such as Debate at a Glance, Facts, Focus Questions, and Infographics for classroom activities and discussions.

## LIBRARIANS

- Provide your patrons with objective analysis and balanced pro-con discussion of today's issues.
- Assist educators in integrating technology into the classroom and creating engaging critical thinking activities.





# [ EXPLORING ISSUES ]

Helping Students and Researchers Understand Today's Complex Issues

## ISSUES

This growing current issues database includes articles on these issues and more:

- Alternative Energy Cars
- Biofuels
- Biomedical Ethics
- Cell Phones
- Climate Change
- Cyberbullying
- Distracted Driving
- E-Cigarettes and Vaping
- Gun Control and Violence
- Illegal Immigration
- Legalizing Marijuana
- Mass Shootings
- Social Networking
- Video Games and Violence

## SPECS

*Exploring Issues* can be used on a Mac or PC platform. The database is responsive and has been optimized for mobile devices and computers. A minimum of 512 MB of RAM is recommended. The last two versions of the following browsers are supported: Google Chrome, Mozilla FireFox, Microsoft Edge, Internet Explorer, and Apple Safari for Mac OS X (macOS). The following mobile browsers are supported: Safari (iOS 7.0+), Google Chrome, and Android Browser (Android 4.0+).

**Sign up for a free 30-Day Trial at [www.referencepointdigital.com/exploringissues](http://www.referencepointdigital.com/exploringissues)**



[www.referencepointdigital.com](http://www.referencepointdigital.com)  
1.888.479.6436