Adolescents

1. Stress and its effects on young people today

2. The process of applying to college

3. Solutions to prevent high-school drop outs

4. Should the secondary school

curriculum be increased or reduced

5. Should contraceptives be available in high schools

Advertising

6. False advertising

7. Political campaign adve

rtising and its effects

8. Sexism in the media

9. To what extent should t

he government control advertising

10. Ads for tobacco and alcohol

Minorities

11. Should colleges have admissions quotas

12. How has the Afro-Americ

an youth changed in recent years

13. Racism in the courtroom / in prisons

14. The verdict of Scott Peters

on / Martha Stewart / Michael Jackson

15. The impact of Latin Americans

as the largest minority in the US

Americana

16. The high costs of funer

als or / the social pressu

res of planning a funeral

17. Who benefits from the lottery or does it exploit the poor

18. A nationalized health care system

19. The disappearing middle class in America

Social Problems

20. Censorship in art / in the media

21. Should convicted criminals

be eligible for social welfare

22. Mandatory HIV testi

ng or testing for drugs

23. Poverty fosters crime...Yes or no?

24. Hunting (deer, birds) is necessary in some cases

Transportation

25. Should airlines be nationalized

26. The car as a status symbol

27. The minimum age or the ideal

age to get a driver’s license

28. The impact of the “chunnel” tunnel

connecting English to the European

continent

29. The effects of increasing or e

liminating speed lim

its on the highways

Ethics

30. Should the morning-after pill be available in the US?

31. Should HIV+ patients have to identify themselves as positive

32. The denial of health care benefits to illegal immigrants

33. Homosexuality in the military

34. The treatment of Native Americans on reservations

Children

35. The possible effects of videoga

mes or violent toys on children

36. Overseas adoption of children

37. What kids can learn fr

om grandparents and great-grandparents

38. How to train or hire a reliable babysitter

39. The worst nightmare of my chil

dhood / or the best dream I can remember

Community

40. Fire arms should be required to

be registered with the police...why or why

not

41. The effects of gangs in and beyond urban centers

42. The advantages and disadvant

ages of legalizing prostitution

43. Write an editorial to your mayor

complaining about probl

ems in your town

or city

44. What the individual can do

to help protect the environment

Consumerism

45. The effects of fa

st food on your health

46. Cell phones, television, co

mputers...luxuries or necessities

47. Should phone surveys and telemarketing be prohibited

48. Are brand name clot

hes worth the price (Aber

crombie, Ralph Lauren,

Nike)

49. Advantages and disadvantages of credit cards

Current events

50. The importance of the ozone layer

51. The shortage of teachers nowadays

52. How to improve security of air travel

53. Should Puerto Rica be the 51

st

state, a commonw

ealth or independent

54. Modern-day heroes and idols for young people

Customs and Traditions

55. How to plan a surprise party

56. Witchcraft and its practices

57. Smoking in public places

58. Why are tattoos in st

yle and what do they express

59. How the institution of ma

rriage has changed for modern society

The Environment and Pollution

60. The causes and effects of acid rain

61. The causes and effects of noise pollution

62. Recycling should be m

andatory...why or why not?

63. The pros and cons of being vegetarian

64. The importance of the Amazon rain forest

Family

65. What every father/mother

should know about raising children

66. The impact of divorce

67. Same sex marriages

68. The concept of family in the

US vs. Latin America, Europe, Asia

69. The ideal age to get

married / to have children

Fashion

70. Is buying /wearing a fur coat unethical

71. School uniforms should / should not be required

72. Describe the fashion styles of the 70s / 80s / 90s

73. The impact of sweatshops on the clothing industry

74. European influence on fashion in the US

Food

75. How your diet is infl

uenced by religious beliefs

76. How to prepare your favorite dish

77. Myths and misunderstandings

about certain food items

78. How mechanization has changed

the quality of f

ood (vs. organic)

79. Eating disorders and how to

prevent them or

cope with them

The future

80. Should the US continue space (and other planets) exploration

81. UFOs: Reality or fantasy

82. The benefits of solar energy

83. The car / house / school / workplace of the future

84. The impact of overpopulation

Government

85. The role of First Lady of the US

86. Why American can’t recite the pl

edge of allegiance / cite any of the

declaration of independence / the consti

tution / find basic places on a map

87. States need and deserve more autonomy

88. Pros and cons of social welfare programs

89. The national deficit

Health

90. The benefits and risks of organ transplants

91. Hunger in the Third World

92. Unnecessary operations by surgeons

/ corruption in the health care

industry

93. The effects of caffeine on your diet

94. Bodybuilding: Only for the ego or for health reasons

Philosophy

95. Does the American Dream still

exist? What does it consist of?

96. How does one define love / honor / truth

97. Lying is OK sometimes

98. Is terrorism revolutionary?

99. Today’s attitudes about what

is good and bad / right and wrong

100. “Eye for eye, tooth

for tooth” Discuss.

Debate Topics

•

Euthanasia / Death with dignity

•

Experiments on animals (for

medicine, cosmetics, etc)

•

Abortion

•

Death penalty

•

Affirmative action

•

Donating organs for transplant

or in exchange for money

•

Foreign aid

•

Sex education in schools

•

Violence in the cinema and on TV

•

Prayer in schools

•

A flat tax (fixed income tax)

•

Tobacco advertising and its effects

•

Free drugs and syringes for addicts

•

Animal rights

•

Immigration laws

•

Gun control

•

The military’s policy of “Don’t ask, don’t tell”

•

Censorship

•

Global warming

•

Televised court decisions

•

Year-round schools

•

Drug testing for athletes, coaches, teachers

•

Eliminating the grading

system in high schools

•

Eliminating the SAT or the ACT for college admission

•

Santa Claus destroys the meaning of Christmas

•

Avoiding “Merry Christmas”

and using “Happy Holidays” /

Christmas trees vs. ornamental trees

•

Minimum age to drink

•

English as the official language in the US

•

Locker searches in schools

•

Women on the battlefield (role in the military)

•

Effects of rap and hip-hop lyrics on teen language / behavior

•

Can money buy happiness / what money can’t buy

•

If you could create a nat

ional holiday for someone (past or present),

whom would you choose and why?

•

The commercialization of the sports industry