Our 100 Most Popular Student Questions for Debate and Persuasive Writing

BY MICHAEL GONCHAR
FEBRUARY 24, 2016

1. Are the Web Filters at Your School Too Restrictive?

2. Does Technology Make Us More Alone?

3. How Should Parents Handle a Bad Report Card?

4. Should Middle School Students Be Drug Tested?

5. Is Cheating Getting Worse?

6. Do Violent Video Games Make People More Violent in Real Life?

7. Do We Give Children Too Many Trophies?

8. Should Students Be Able to Grade Their Teachers?

9. Should Schools Put Tracking Devices in Students' ID Cards?

10. If Football Is So Dangerous to Players, Should We Be Watching It?

11. Should Video Games Be Considered a Sport?

12. Do Teachers Assign Too Much Homework?

13. Does Technology Get in the Way of Learning?

14. What Is More Important: Our Privacy or National Security?

15. Should Stores Sell Violent Video Games to Minors?

16. Is a Healthier School Lunch Program a Lost Cause?

17. How Young Is Too Young for an iPhone?

18. Is Cheerleading a Sport?

19. Should the School Day Start Later?

20. Should Racial Epithets Be Removed From 'Huck Finn'?

21. Should Schools Offer Cash Bonuses for Good Test Scores?

22. Can Money Buy You Happiness?

23. Should Women Be Allowed to Fight on the Front Lines Alongside Men? And, Should They Be Required to Register for the Draft?

24. Is There Too Much Pressure on Girls to Have 'Perfect' Bodies?

25. Should the Private Lives of Famous People Be Off Limits?

26. Is School Teaching You the Skills You'll Need to Succeed in Life?

27. What Current Musicians Will Stand the Test of Time?

28. What Words or Phrases Are Overused and Should Go Away?

29. Can Cellphones Be Educational Tools?

30. Is School Designed More for Girls Than Boys?

31. Do Kids Need Recess?

32. What Time Should Black Friday Sales Start?

33. Do Photoshopped Images Promote Unrealistic Expectations of Beauty and Body Image?

34. What Should Be Done to Stop Cyberbullying?

35. When Should You Feel Guilty for Killing Zombies?

36. How Should We Prevent Future Mass Shootings?

37. Is It Unethical for Zoos to Kill Healthy Animals Under Their Care?

38. Is a Longer School Calendar a Good Idea?

39. Which Is More Important: Talent or Hard Work?

40. Should Couples Live Together Before Marriage?

41. Is Home-Schooling Better Than a Traditional Education?

42. Is Prom Worth It?

43. Do Students Learn Best When They Direct Their Own Education?

44. Should Reading and Math Be Taught in Gym Class Too?

45. Should Schools Be Allowed to Use Corporal Punishment?

46. How Young Is Too Young to Date? (Or, Is Dating a Thing of the Past?)

47. Do You Trust Your Government?

48. Are Children of Illegal Immigrants Entitled to a Public Education?

49. Should the Government Limit the Size of Sugary Drinks?

50. Has Facebook Lost Its Edge?

51. Should Tablet Computers Become the Primary Way Students Learn in Class?

52. How Necessary Is a College Education?

53. How Well Do You Think Standardized Tests Measure Your Abilities?

54. Are Some Youth Sports Too Intense?

55. Should Texting While Driving Be Illegal in Every State?

56. Can Graffiti Ever Be Considered Art?

57. Whose Fault Is It if a Child Is Failing in School?

58. Should the Dropout Age Be Raised?

59. Should a College Education Be Free?

60. Should People Be Allowed to Obscure Their Identities Online?

61. Does Class Size Matter?

62. Should Marijuana Be Legal?

63. Should You Feel Guilty About Killing Spiders, Ants or Other Bugs?

64. Does Classroom Technology Enhance What and How Students Learn? Or, Does It Get in the Way of Learning?

65. Should Parents Let Their Children Play Football?

66. When Is the Use of Military Force Justified?

67. Do Parents Have Different Hopes and Standards for Their Sons Than for Their Daughters?

68. Do Leaders Have Moral Obligations?

69. Should All Police Officers Wear Body Cameras?

70. Does Separating Boys and Girls Help Students Perform Better in School?

71. Is It Ethical to Eat Meat?

72. Is Smoking Still a Problem Among Teenagers?

73. Do Laws That Ban Offensive Words Make the World a Better Place?

74. Is TV Too White? And, What About Movies?

75. Is It O.K. to Refuse to Serve Same-Sex Couples Based on Religious Beliefs?

76. Should Parents Limit How Much Time Children Spend on Tech Devices?

77. Would You Feel Safer With Armed Guards Patrolling Your School?

78. Should You Go to Jail for Kicking a Cat?

79. Should Home-Schoolers Be Allowed to Play Public School Sports?

80. Is It Offensive for Sports Teams to Use Native American Names and Mascots?

81. Should Students Be Barred From Taking Cellphones to School?

82. How Important Is Arts Education?

83. Should the United States Stop Using the Death Penalty?

84. Is It O.K. for Men and Boys to Comment on Women and Girls on the Street?

85. Should Students Be Allowed to Skip Senior Year of High School?

86. Would You Trade Your Paper Books for Digital Versions?

87. Have Curse Words Become So Common They Have Lost Their Shock Value?

88. Should College Football Players Get Paid?

89. Are High School Students Being Worked Too Hard?

90. When Do You Become an Adult?

91. Does Reality TV Promote Dangerous Stereotypes? Or, Does It Ever Actually Do Some Good?

92. Should Colleges Find a Better Way to Admit Students?

93. How Should Parents Address Internet Pornography?

94. Can You Be Good Without God?

95. Do Our Neighborhoods Define Who We Are?

96. Does Life Exist — or Has It Ever Existed — Somewhere Besides Earth?

97. Should Computer Games Be Used for Classroom Instruction?

98. Should Companies Collect Information About Us?

99. Should You Care About the Health and Safety of Those Making Your Clothing?

100.   Should We Rethink How Long Students Spend in High School?

As a bonus, here are several more popular questions that we published since last year's editorial contest that didn't make the list:

- Does Facebook Need a 'Dislike' Button?

- Are School Dress Codes a Good Idea?

- Should Voting Be Mandatory?

- Should the Drinking Age Be Lowered?

- Should Farm Animals Have More Legal Protections?

- Does Punctuation in Text Messages Matter?

- Should High Schools Drop Football Because Too Many Players Are Getting Injured?

- Should Circuses Be Animal-Free?