Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center is a full-text database covering key issues such as environmental policy, genetic engineering, media violence and hundreds more. This database includes: articles and essays with differing points of view, statistics, topic overviews, court cases, magazine/newspaper articles and primary documents.

Logging On
From any computer hooked up to the Internet, start with the Gavilan Library homepage at: http://www.gavilan.edu/library/

Click on the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center icon. If you are working off-campus, you will then be prompted to type in your library card number.

The Basic Search
You can either browse through a sampling of topics provided on the Opposing Viewpoints homepage screen or conduct a basic search which allows you to search by: subject (default), keyword, and full-text. To conduct a basic search:

- Type your search word(s) in the search entry box.
- Use the drop-down menu to choose whether to search by subject, keyword, or full-text and click on the search button.
- A listing of viewpoint essays will appear on the next screen:

  ![Search Interface](image)

  - Click the link to the essay or article to access the full text of the document.
  - The tab above the results indicates what type of document data is available.
  - Clicking on a tab will provide access to the documents or images. If a tab is grayed-out, that data type is not available.
  - The results of a subject or keyword search also include a listing of the subject terms on the left side of the screen.)
• The Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) can be used in a basic search.

The Advanced Search
If you have a very specific search you may wish to use the advanced search feature by clicking on the icon which is located next to the search button on the Opposing Viewpoints homepage.

In the advanced search mode you have various ways to improve the precision of your retrieval of sources. The following is an example:

```
Advanced Search
Enter search term(s) and select index type.
Indicate choice of Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT)

athletes in Subject AND
steroids in Title/Headline AND
Barry Bonds in Full-text

SEARCH CLEAR FORM
```

In addition, while in the advanced search mode, you can further limit your search to a specific date range or document type.

Once you’ve clicked on a link to view the article, essay, etc. you can either print it or email it to yourself by clicking on the appropriate icon:

```
Print E-mail
```

What if you don’t have a specific topic in mind?
The Spotlight Archive link is located just above the news-related picture on the right side of the Opposing Viewpoints homepage. Every two weeks a current topic is in the spotlight with an introductory essay and links to related sources. By clicking on the link to the Spotlight Archive you can browse through several years’ worth of newsworthy topics.

Research Guide
A special Research Guide link at the top of the Opposing Viewpoints homepage provides you with analysis and critical thinking guides to evaluate facts and arguments and to decide for yourself whether to accept or reject a source. Overviews include: how to distinguish fact from opinion and bias from reason, how to recognize deceptive arguments, etc.

Tools
By clicking on the Tools link also located at the top of the Opposing Viewpoints homepage you can get expert help in putting all the information you’ve gathered into an effective report or speech. Tools include tips on how to judge information, write a thesis statement, build an argument, organize a paper, create charts, graphs, etc. and how to write a conclusion.

Remember if you need help, please ask the reference librarian.