What is “SIRS” from ProQuest?

(Social Issues Resources Series) A line of focused, specially constructed online research databases.

- Materials are hand-selected from over 1900 sources, with manually written summaries and indexing using Library of Congress Subject Headings

- Selection criteria include:
  - Well-documented information
  - The latest information on ever-changing fields
  - Topics of both local and global importance
  - A wide variety of viewpoints
  - Graphics that help clarify information
  - Materials that are clear, comprehensive, reliable, and relevant
  - Non-duplicative materials
SIRS Issues Researcher: Insight into social issues

- Database offering background & analysis for the study of 350+ controversial issues
- Each issue includes:
  - Essential Question
  - Issue Backgrounder
  - Critical Thinking Questions
  - Issue Timeline
  - Research Guide
  - Articles Representing Each Viewpoint
- All Articles 100% Full-Text & Lexiled
- All Editorially-selected documents, images, charts, and graphics, assuring appropriate and relevant content
SIRS Issues Researcher: Current & Evolving

- New Leading Issues added each year to reflect changes in society and the news cycle
- Sources derive from respected magazines, newspapers, journals and reference books from leading publishers
- Thousands of new articles are selected and added to SIRS by trained ProQuest editors, many with backgrounds in education and research
- Photos, graphics and charts accompany text to draw students attention
SIRS Issues Researcher: Creating Critical Thinkers

SIRS Issues Researcher can help support activities and lessons that aid students with:

- Topic Selection
- Critical Thinking
- Visual Literacy
- Reading Support
- Workflow Tools
- Information Literacy

Plus new additions and curriculum activities curated by our editors!
Students learn to **select a topic** using these activities:

- **Leading Issues** are browse-able from the front page:
  - **Trending Pro/Con Leading Issues** to find a topic trending in the news
  - **Categories** to drill down to a topic of interest from a broad category
  - Issues can also be viewed **alphabetically**
- The Research Guide leads students to assess interest, purpose, and intended audience to aid in choosing a topic
Students develop **critical thinking** skills through these Leading Issue features:

- **Overview**: The Essential Question and overview offer general context
- **Viewpoints**: Statements explain the arguments
- **Supporting articles**: Each article offers evidence for a viewpoint
- **Critical Thinking & Analysis questions**: Uncover the nuances of the issue
- **Timeline**: An historical perspective including key related events
SIRS Supports **visual literacy** using these features:

- The featured **editorial cartoon** on each Leading Issue page
- Multimedia/Statistics source type in any search result. **Gallery images** great for research projects
- The **infographics** and **editorial cartoons** browse in the image collection*
- The **Maps of the World** foster visual literacy and global awareness*

*Accessible via the **Educators’ Resources** page
Students have opportunities to read informational text with the aid of tools:

- **Lexile levels** are associated with each article and can be sorted, filtered, or searched.
- **Text-to-speech** provides audio and mp3 downloads.
- **Language translation** is available in 12 languages.
- **Article summaries** offer concise descriptions to aid comprehension.
- **Recently Added Articles** deliver opportunities for daily reading.
Students can develop information literacy skills using any one of these Curriculum Guides, available free within the product:

- Editorial Cartoons
- Infographics
- Primary Sources
- Research
- Statistics
- Writing Arguments
SIRS Issues Researcher – Educator’s Resources

**Educators' Resources**

**Communication**

- **Featured: Share This Blog**
  Blog posts feature product updates, training opportunities, and curriculum ideas for SIRS Issues Researcher. Also see [Facebook](#) and [ProQuest Homework Central](#).

- **Edmodo Community**
  Educator community offers ways to connect with educators and ProQuest staff and integrate collection content directly into classroom or library activities.

- **Newsletters**
  Subscription newsletters showcase the latest on ProQuest products and services, upcoming events, industry trends, and marketing resources.

- **Pinterest**
  Boards offer K12-oriented resources including [Educator Activities](#), [Current Events in the Classroom](#), and [Food and Recipes](#).

- **RSS Feeds**
  Feeds furnish the latest articles and updates on all Leading Issues to stay informed of industry news.

**Tools**

- **Featured: Curriculum Guides**
  Teacher and student-ready PDFs with editable fields are aligned to curriculum and help teach information literacy skills. Also available in MS Word format: [editorial cartoons](#), [infographics](#), [primary sources](#), [research guide](#), [statistics](#), and [argument writing](#).

- **Citing Leading Issues**
  One page document instructs students on how to cite Leading Issues content in MLA and APA formats.

- **Editorial Cartoons**
  Editorial and political cartoon collection offers content for visual literacy and critical thinking.

- **Infographics**
  Gallery view presents visual display of infographics available in SIRS Issues Researcher.

- **Lesson Plan Websites**
  Collection of classroom-ready, editorially-reviewed lesson plans.

**Training**

- **Featured: Training Webinars**
  Portal provides an opportunity to explore a variety of training webinars about ProQuest products and services. Live and recorded sessions are available to meet scheduling needs.

- **Human Element**
  Animated video illustrates how SIRS Issues Researcher offers a superior experience to aggregate products and the open web due to editorial selection and compilation.

- **LibGuide**
  Site offers training and promotional materials for SIRS Issues Researcher that may be easily copied into an existing LibGuide.

- **Product Page**
  Page provides overview, title list, support, product literature, and library marketing tools for SIRS Issues Researcher.

- **Product Training Videos**
  Videos offer tips and instructions on the resources and benefits of a variety of guided learning features.
Training and Support

https://www.proquest.com/libraries/schools – Main Page
https://www.proquest.com/training -- Webinars
https://blogs.proquest.com – “Share This” information blog
https://proquest.libguides.com – Additional resource information

• Free Webinars
• Pre-recorded Videos
• Guides and Support Materials
• Contact a Trainer

California: https://proquest.libguides.com/Californiak12