Research Topics

Are political dynasties bad for American democracy, or simply inevitable?

Does money really matter in politics?

Is improving schools all about money?

Who should be the first female on US paper currency?

Should parents’ religious belief allow them to refuse medical care for their children?

Are same-sex colleges still relevant?

Was Ringling Brothers right to ban elephants from their shows?

Would we be safer if fewer were jailed?

Is home birth ever a safe choice?

Is giving homeless people homes more effective than making them stay in shelters or on the streets?

Are we ready for driverless cars?

Does the US government need to regulate payday loans?

Is it child abuse to make a transgender child ‘change’?

Do immigrants take jobs from American-born workers?

Are all conspiracy theories bad? What role does skepticism and suspicion play in society?

Are young people being smart by delaying the rituals of adult life (i.e., having children, getting married, buying a home), or are they being responsible?

Would attempts by Facebook and other social sites to curb violent comments step on users’ artistic expression?

Will consumers ever embrace wearable technology, or are the devices too intrusive?

Does Ferguson show that cops who kill get off too easily?

Is the food label ‘natural’ misleading to consumers? Should the FDA enforce a definition of this term?

Is streaming music good for musicians?

All topics taken from NYT Room for Debate
Should schools regulate the off-campus, online behavior or their students?

Should doctors encourage young women to freeze their eggs? Do companies send the wrong message by covering the procedure?

How should Muslim’s respond to the threat of extremism within Islam?

Why don’t Americans take vacation? Are they pressure to leave time off unused, or do they enjoy work more than play?

Is racism an intractable problem for police or can other factors explain the disparate rate at which African-Americans are stopped and arrested?

What can be done to stop young people from adopting radical views and joining militant groups?

Should people in need of a kidney transplant be allowed to pay someone to donate one of theirs?

Should parents share images of their kids online? Is the sharing of videos and pictures a violation of a child’s right to privacy?

Are police departments too heavily armed? Should law enforcement agencies receive surplus military property for everyday policing in cities and neighborhoods?

Will 3-D printing change the world?

What wedding traditions should be revived or discarded?

Should there be a law limiting unpredictable schedules for hourly and part-time workers?

Should Western child labor standards apply to developing countries?

Does the Confederate flag breed racism?

Should birthright citizenship be abolished?

Why has trust in the news media declined?

Is the fight again ISIS the West’s fight?

Should it be illegal to declaw your cat?

Should drug addicts be forced into treatment?

How should the media cover mass shooters?

Should female soldiers be allowed in combat?

All topics taken from NYT Room for Debate
Have mobile matchmaking programs gotten better at connecting young people?

Is it wrong to watch football? How can fans enjoy watching a game that helps ruin players’ lives?

Is the A.D.H.D diagnosis helping or hurting kids?

Should college be free?

What sorts of measures could improve the safety, if not reduce the availability, of firearms?

Do non-Muslims hurt or help women by wearing hijabs?

All topics taken from NYT Room for Debate