

Internet Debate Research

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Terms

Internet Provider: The commercial service used to establish a connection to the Internet. Examples of a service provider are America Online, Sprint, ATT, MSN, Road Runner, etc.

Internet Browser: The software used to manipulate information on the Internet. The four major browsers in use are Chrome (the Google product), Mozilla Firefox (the successor to Netscape), Safari (the Apple product) and Edge (the Microsoft product). Each type of browser will give you access to the same group of search engines, which is the main thing you will care about.

Firefox has one feature that other browsers lack: it can report to you the last revision date of a Web page (select “Page Info” from the top “Tools” menu to access this function). I teach debaters that a Web page may be dated from the last revision date if no other date is shown on the page; Internet Explorer, Chrome and Safari offer no way to know this date.

The “Wayback Machine” offers another option for discovering the dates that a website was first created and last revised. The Wayback Machine archives Internet sites, and is available at <https://web.archive.org/>. The procedure here is as follows: (1) Copy the URL of the website for which you need the date; (2) Go to the webpage for the Wayback Machine; (3) Paste the URL of the desired website into the search box of the Wayback Machine. For almost all website, the Wayback Machine will then report the time the website was created and the last time it was revised.

URL: This stands for Uniform Resource Locator. It is the <http://www.baylor.edu> etc.

Internet Search Engine: The software used to search for information on the Internet. You will use the same group of search engines, regardless of which browser (Explorer, Firefox, Chrome, or Safari) you may be using. Examples of search engines are Google, Bing, Teoma, Yahoo, Excite, and LookSmart. My personal favorites are Google and Bing.

Metasearch Engines: These are Internet search engines which will submit your search to other search engines. While there were once many metasearch engines, the only major ones remaining are Dogpile and Webcrawler. The metasearch engines advertise that they are superior to any one search engine since they will report results from multiple search engines. While this is useful for some purposes, it is not the best means to conduct debate research. The metasearch engine sends a simple search request to other search engines, meaning that you are foregoing the

opportunity to use the “advanced search” function that almost all major search engines make available to you. This means that you often are losing the capability to do exact phrase searching, limitation by date, limitation by domain, or limitation by file type. It is also often true that you will receive fewer hits from each of the major search engines than if you were to issue the search directly within that search engine.

Domain: Each web page on the Internet will have a closing three letter code such as “.com,” “.edu,” “.gov,” “.net,” etc. The domain tells you something about the origin of the web page. In most instances, the “edu” domain means the web page is housed in or provided by a college or university. The “gov” domain means the web page is maintained by a federal, state, or local government. The “com” and “net” domains usually mean a commercial enterprise. Most of the major search engines (in the advanced search options) allow the debater to limit a search to particular domains.

PDF: This stands for “portable document file” and indicates that a document is being made available in a format which will look just like an original document in print (complete with page numbers). PDF files are designed to be viewed and/or printed in Adobe Acrobat Reader (available free for download from the Internet). The advantage for the debater is that information gathered from a PDF file can be cited at a particular page number (the same page number it would have as if you had access to the original printed document). Almost all congressional hearings (starting with the 105th and 106th Congresses) are available in PDF format. This not only means that you can download a hearing which will be identical to the printed one, but it also means that you have almost immediate access to a hearing once it has been held. PDF files also carry the advantage that they generally are made available from well-established sources on the Internet. Again, however, the software necessary to “read” PDF documents is available free on the Internet. You will know that a document for download is available in PDF format if the Internet URL ends in “.pdf”. Most of the major search engines allow you to search for only those Web pages which make available a PDF download.

HTML: This stands for “hypertext markup language” and is the code used for creating web pages. You don’t really need to be an HTML programmer to be able to write a web page since numerous programs can create the code for you from simple-to-operate menu choices. If you want to view the HTML code used to construct a web page you can do so by selecting the top menu choice for “View” (In either Firefox or Chrome) and coming down to the choice for “Developer Tools.” By selecting “View Source” under “Developer Tools” you will see displayed the native HTML code which creates the Web page.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Debaters can now explore the potential of artificial intelligence to assist with debate research and the construction of cases, by creating an account at

<https://chat.chatbotapp.ai/landing/register>

As explained in a recent CNBC article written by Ryan Browne, entitled “All you need to know about ChatGPT, the A.I. chatbot that’s got the world talking and tech giants clashing,” offered the following description: “ChatGPT is an AI chatbot developed by San Francisco-based startup OpenAI. OpenAI was co-founded in 2015 by Elon Musk and Sam Altman and is backed by well-known investors – most notably Microsoft. It is one of several examples of generative AI. These are tools that allow users to enter written prompts and receive new human-like text or images and videos generated by the AI” (<https://www.cnbc.com/2023/02/08/what-is-chatgpt-viral-ai-chatbot-at-heart-of-microsoft-google-fight.html>).

While ChatGPT is impressive in its ability to generate essays on any topic, debaters should remain wary about the accuracy of statistics and source citations provided – elements that are essential to ethical debating. Early versions of ChatGPT seemed often to present sources of support that did not actually exist. Later versions do, however, seem to have significantly improved the accuracy of source citation. Debaters should, however, remain cautious; it is essential to personally check the accuracy of citations.

Maximizing the Use of the Search Engine

Why use a search engine? This is the only way to find material on the Internet unless you already know the URL you are looking for. The problem is that you must know the URL precisely; close will not be good enough. In the early days of the Internet folks used to use printed resources such as *Internet Yellow Pages*. But now there are simply too many pages for these types of publications to be useful. Google and Bing, for example, index about 30 trillion Internet pages.

Procedures for effective searching:

What about capitalization? For Internet search engines capitalization no longer matters. Searching for “SECURITY COOPERATION” will produce the same results as “Security Cooperation” or “security cooperation.”

What about quotation marks? Use quotation marks whenever you want the search engine to look for words together as a phrase (assuming you are using a search engine that enables exact phrase searching). If you search for Basic Income (without the quotation marks), the search engine will look for web pages containing the word “basic” and “income” but it will not require that the words be next to each other. By putting quotation marks around “Basic Income” you are requesting only those pages containing the whole phrase. There is no need to put quotation marks around a single word.

How can one limit a search to a particular domain? The best Internet search engines have an “advanced search” or “power search” capability. One of the options in

the advanced search engine is the capability to limit by domain. Limited your search to the .gov domain will, for example, provide an efficient means of finding government publications on the desired search. To access Google's advanced search engine, simply place the words "advanced search" in the Google search box.

How can one search for a particular URL (you know part but not all of the URL)? Many of the advanced search engines provide the capability to enter a search term and then to indicate whether you wish to make this search apply to "title only," "full-text," or URL. You would, of course, select the URL option.

How does the search engine rank the web pages it reports? This is a somewhat controversial issue. Some search engines receive payment from internet advertisers for the privilege of having their pages reported early in the search list. Most search engines, though, report the web pages in order of the greater number of occurrences of the term. Google's patented PageRank system factors in not only the proximity of the terms but the number of times other users have accessed the web pages.

Quality of Evidence on the Internet

Setting rigid standards will be essential: The Internet makes available web pages from fourth grade students right alongside those from world-class experts. Just as in the print medium, one must make a distinction between the *New York Times* and the *Weekly World News*. Since most debate research is squad-based, meaning it is shared by many students, it is essential that there be agreement on minimum standards for the types of web pages which may be used for debate research. Following are some recommended standards:

NO use of web pages which come from discussion groups or chat rooms.

NO use of evidence from comments posted on blogs.

NO use of web pages where the author's qualifications are unknown.

NO use of web pages where the author is a student in grade school, high school, or college.

NO use of web pages from hate groups or from unidentified organizations.

NO use of web pages which are undated or for which a "last revision date" is unavailable.

Prefer web pages sponsored by one of the following groups:

A government institution

A major educational institution

A recognized "think tank" (RAND, Brookings Institution, Heritage Foundation, CATO Institute, Hudson Institute, etc.)

A reputable journalistic organization (CNN, New York Times, Christian Science Monitor, etc.)

Using the URL to sort out author qualifications: Consider the following example. You enter “John Rawls” and “social safety net” in a Google search. You have a web page returned to you entitled “Notes on ‘A Theory of Justice.’” The web page contains some information which you find useful, but you have no information about the author other than just the name Chilton. You notice from the URL that the web page comes from an “edu” domain associated with something called d.umn, but you don’t know what school this is, and you don’t know whether the author is a professor or an undergraduate student. The URL is <http://www.d.umn.edu/~schilton/3652/Readings/3652.Rawls.ATheoryOfJustice.html>. Take apart the URL to discover more about the author. Click with your mouse up in the URL line and eliminate all of the end of the URL back to schilton, then return. See if you can find more information about the author. If the URL comes from an educational institution with which you are unfamiliar, eliminate all of the end of the URL back to the part which ends in “edu” then hit return. By clicking the button on his web page for “Vita” you can discover information about his background. You find that the author of the web page is Stephen Chilton, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, who earned his Ph.D. from MIT — a good source. But some additional work was needed to determine the qualification. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU FIND THE PERSON OR GROUP RESPONSIBLE FOR AUTHORIZING THE WEB PAGE. It is NEVER a sufficient qualification that you found it on the Internet.

How to find the date. Some web pages will have the date prominently displayed at the top of the web page. Whenever you have this type of date listed, it should be used rather than the last revision date of the web page. Often, however, there is no date on the web page. In most cases you can find the date by pasting the URL into the Wayback Machine at <https://web.archive.org/>. The Wayback Machine will report the date that the web page was created and the date of its last revision.

How to prepare debate citations from the Internet. Example:

Katherine Klosek, (Dir., Information Policy Association of Research Libraries), *Training Generative AI Models On Copyrighted Works Is Fair Use*, Jan. 23, 2024. Retrieved May 8, 2024 from <https://www.arl.org/blog/training-generative-ai-models-on-copyrighted-works-is-fair-use/>

This is the citation standard required by the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA), which follows a modified version of the Style Manual of the Modern Language Association (MLA). Authors must be listed if present. Qualifications must be given. The date of the web page must be given. The name of the web page should be presented. At the end of the citation, indicate that it was gathered online and that the online source was an Internet URL (as opposed

to Lexis/Nexis, Dialogue, etc.). The final date is the date that you accessed the Internet material.

Carding Evidence

ADVANTAGES OF ON-DISK EVIDENCE AND BRIEF PREPARATION

Minimize Printing: In the age of the information explosion, it is simply not feasible for debaters to print out a hard copy of everything they think they might need to read. The two major impediments are expense and time. It is expensive (in printer cartridges) for a debate squad to print out all of the materials that active researchers need. It is also time consuming to print big chunks of material; computer labs typically have many computers but a single printer. The printer becomes the bottle neck. The overuse of printing is also environmentally irresponsible. Debaters chunk huge volumes of paper, often printing out a two-hundred page law review article in order to extract two or three cards. This means that hundreds of pages per day of printed or photocopied materials are simply discarded.

More Usable Briefs: Word processed briefs are easier to read (no illegible handwritten tags, no red or blue ink which refuses to photocopy), and they contain much more evidence per page. This ends up saving a squad large amounts of money in photocopy cost. In fact, members of a large squad can simply distribute new positions via disk and have each squad member print out their briefs on their own printer. This dramatically reduces squad photocopy costs. If briefs are to be word processed, it simply makes sense to collect the evidence on-disk. Otherwise, the debater has to re-type the evidence which exists in hard copy.

Sorting is Easy: The old way for debaters to construct arguments (a hegemony disadvantage, for example) is to create piles on a table-top of evidence which is sorted into different parts of the argument. Inevitably, as the argument is being constructed, there are numerous times when the debater thinks, "I know I have that piece of evidence that says . . . but WHERE IS IT?" When evidence is collected, sorted, and filed on-disk, that doesn't happen. If the evidence isn't found in the right category, the debater simply uses the word processor's "find" function to search for the word or phrase. The card is located in seconds. When evidence is prepared on-disk, the debater can simply use the sorting function of the word processor to put the evidence in order.

HOW DOES ONE CARD EVIDENCE ONLINE?

Have Your Word Processor and Internet Browser Both Open at the Same Time: There was a time when computers simply didn't have enough RAM (current memory) to have two large programs open at once. Almost all current

generation computers have plenty of memory to make this possible. Simply open the first program, then minimize the window (minimize button is in the top right corner) and start up the other program. If you are on a PC, switch back and forth between the two programs by clicking the desired program on the start-bar. On the Macintosh, you can switch between programs by using the icon in the top right hand corner of your screen. An alternative method for switching is to overlap the window just a bit so that a corner of both can be seen. When you desire to switch, just click with the mouse on the other window to make that program active.

Steps for On-Disk Carding of Evidence:

Text-Saving Method:

1. Locate the Internet site from which the evidence will come.
2. Construct the evidence citation on the word processor in accordance with UIL and NSDA rules.
3. Highlight the portion of the text from the web page which will makeup the text of the card. Copy the text into memory (on the PC, this is Cntrl-C; on the Macintosh it is Apple-C).
4. Switch to the word processor and paste in the text just below the evidence citation. (On the PC, this is Cntrl-V; on the Macintosh it is Apple-V)
5. Eliminate unwanted carrier returns in one of two ways: (a) click at the beginning of each line and backspace, or (b) use the word processor's search and replace function to eliminate all paragraph breaks.
6. Continue pasting cards into the word processor until you have taken all of the desired cards from the web page. Then copy and paste as many evidence citation tops as needed to match each of the cards.

SORTING EVIDENCE ON THE COMPUTER

Design a filing scheme which will allow addition of categories.

Once filed and sorted, your on-disk evidence file functions just like the "piles of cards" on the table. You use the index to see where the cards are which will support the part of the argument you are putting together, then use the search function on the word processor to find the cards, by searching for R301, for example. Read the cards which are filed there, and select the card or cards you want to insert in the brief. Then cut and paste them.

Suggestions for Online Policy Debate Research

Finding Definitions of Terms:

www.OneLook.com: Access to more than one thousand dictionaries is available through www.onelook.com.

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>: This Web resources says that it is “the world’s largest and most authoritative free online dictionary and mobile reference resource.”

<http://www.yourdictionary.com/>

<http://oxforddictionaries.com/>

<http://www.etymonline.com/>

Newspaper & Journal Articles:

Google News: Google news gives you access to otherwise hard to find news articles on the economic inequality topic. The normal news database is limited to the past 30 days, but you can access the Google News Archive at <http://news.google.com/newspapers> for older articles.

FindArticles: This article search site is maintained by CBS News, available at <https://www.findarticles.com/>

Library of Congress Online Reading Room. From this Web site, the debater can find links to hundreds of online newspapers and journals.
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/news/lists.html>

The Write News. This site provides links to all major newspapers maintaining online services. <http://writenews.com/newslinks/>

Research Think Tanks:

American Enterprise Institute: “The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the foundations of freedom—limited government, private enterprise, vital cultural and political institutions, and a strong foreign policy and national defense—through scholarly research, open debate, and publications. Founded in 1943 and located in Washington, D.C., AEI is one of America's largest and most respected think tanks.”
<http://www.aei.org/library.htm>

Brookings Institution: “In its research, The Brookings Institution functions as an independent analyst and critic, committed to publishing its findings for the information of the public. In its conferences and activities, it serves as a bridge between scholarship and public policy, bringing new knowledge to the attention of decisionmakers and affording scholars a better insight into public policy issues. The Institution traces its beginnings to 1916 with the founding of the Institute for Government Research, the first private organization devoted to public policy issues at the national level. In 1922 and 1924, the Institute was joined by two supporting sister organizations, the Institute of Economics and the Robert Brookings Graduate School. In 1927, these three groups were consolidated into one institution, named in honor of Robert Somers Brookings (1850-1932), a St. Louis businessman whose leadership shaped the earlier organizations.” <https://www.brookings.edu/>

CATO Institute: “The Cato Institute was founded in 1977 by Edward H. Crane. It is a non-profit public policy research foundation headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Institute is named for Cato's Letters, a series of libertarian pamphlets that helped lay the philosophical foundation for the American Revolution. The Cato Institute seeks to broaden the parameters of public policy debate to allow consideration of the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, free markets and peace. Toward that goal, the Institute strives to achieve greater involvement of the intelligent, concerned lay public in questions of policy and the proper role of government.” www.cato.org

Heritage Foundation. “Founded in 1973, The Heritage Foundation is a research and educational institute — a think tank — whose mission is to formulate and promote conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense.” <http://www.heritage.org/>

Hudson Institute: “In Hudson Institute’s policy recommendations, articles, books, conferences, and contributions to the electronic media, we share optimism about the future and a willingness to question conventional wisdom. We demonstrate commitment to free markets and individual responsibility, confidence in the power of technology to assist progress, respect for the importance of culture and religion in human affairs, and determination to preserve America’s national security.” <http://www.hudson.org/>

RAND Corporation: “RAND (a contraction of the term research and development) is the first organization to be called a "think tank." We earned this distinction soon after we were created in 1946 by our original client, the U.S. Air Force (then the Army Air Forces). Some of our early work involved aircraft, rockets, and satellites. In the 1960s we even helped develop the technology you're using to view this web site. Today, RAND's work is exceptionally diverse. We now assist all branches of the U.S. military community, and we apply our expertise to social and international issues as well.” <http://www.rand.org/>

Law Reviews:

University Law Review Project. <http://www.lawreview.org/>

LawTechnologyToday.org. This site provides links to hundreds of law reviews many of which make their archives available online.

<http://www.lawtechnologytoday.org/free-full-text-online-law-review-journal-search/>

Top Intellectual Property Web Sites for Policy Debaters

American Bar Association: Section of Intellectual Property Law (ABA-IPL): https://www.americanbar.org/groups/intellectual_property_law/

This group declares its purpose as to advance “the development and improvement of intellectual property laws and their fair and just administration. The Section furthers the goals of its members by sharing knowledge and balanced insight on the full spectrum of intellectual property law and practice, including patents, trademarks, copyright, design, and trade secrets.”

American Enterprise Institute: <https://www.aei.org>

This organization states its purpose as follows: “The American Enterprise Institute is a community of scholars and supporters committed to expanding liberty, increasing individual opportunity and strengthening free enterprise. AEI pursues these unchanging ideals through independent thinking, open debate, reasoned argument, facts, and the highest standards of research and exposition.” By using the website’s search box, the debater can access articles relevant to the topic, including the following: “Stop the AI Pause” and “AI closes the gap.”

American Intellectual Property Law Association (AIPLA): <https://www.aipla.org/>

This organization describes itself as “a national bar association constituted primarily of practitioners in private and corporate practice, in government service, and in the academic community. AIPLA represents a wide and diverse spectrum of individuals from law firms, companies, and institutions involved directly or indirectly in the practice of patent, trademark, copyright, trade secret, and unfair competition law, as well as other fields of law affecting intellectual property. Our members represent both owners and users of intellectual property. AIPLA was formed to maintain a high standard of professional ethics, to aid in the improvement in laws relating to intellectual property and in their proper interpretation by the courts, and to provide legal education to the public and to its members on intellectual property issues.” Selecting the “Policy & Advocacy” tab will provide access to numerous documents relevant to the intellectual property topic.

Bipartisan Policy Center: <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/>

This group declares its focus as “on policy solutions to strengthen our democracy, promote economic growth and opportunities, and create better health outcomes for all Americans.” Recent articles include the following: “Advancing Innovation, Competition, And Access For Biologics Through Patent Policy” and “So You Want to ‘Beat’ China: Here Are 3 Ways.”

Brookings Institution: <https://www.brookings.edu>

The Brookings Institution explains that its mission is “to conduct in-depth research that leads to new ideas for solving problems facing society at the local, national and global level.” By using the main search box to enter names such as “intellectual property” the debater can access reports such as “What Should the Regulation of Generative AI Look Like?,” “Intellectual Property, Not Intellectual Monopoly,” and “The U.S.-China Tech Rivalry Shapes the Economic Relationship.”

Cato Institute: <https://www.cato.org>

Cato describes its purpose as follows: “The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization – or think tank – that creates a presence for and promotes libertarian ideas in policy debates. Our mission is to originate, disseminate, and advance solutions based on the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets, and peace.” Cato Institute scholars typically support conservative political perspectives. Examples of recent articles are “Generative AI and Copyright,” “Streaming Music and Copyright,” and “Waiving COVID-19 Vaccine Patents Would Be Disastrous.”

Commonwealth Fund: <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/>

The Commonwealth Fund declares its mission as “to promote a high-performing, equitable health care system that achieves better access, improved quality, and greater efficiency, particularly for society’s most vulnerable, including people of color, people with low income, and those who are uninsured. The Fund carries out this mandate by supporting independent research on health care issues and making grants to improve health care practice and policy.” Publications available from this website focus on the role of patents in blocking access to pharmaceuticals such as the following: “It’s the Patents, Stupid – Why Drugs Cost So Much in the U.S.,” “Policymakers’ Attention Turns to Drug Patents in the Debate on Prices,” and “For Global Vaccine Access, Overhaul the Patent System.”

Competitive Enterprise Institute: <https://cei.org/>

This group declares that it is “America’s leading advocate of regulatory reform on a wide range of policy issues. We fight for less regulation, more freedom, and fairness for all.” Their conservative political vision is of “a society thriving without unnecessary government burdens, where property rights are secure and Americans are free to prosper.” This website provides access to articles including “Don’t Drink the ‘Right to Repair’ Kool-Aid,” and “Cutting-edge Drugs Could Vanish Under Biden’s Unprecedented Move to Seize Patents.”

Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP): <https://c4ip.org/>

This group describes itself as “a bipartisan coalition dedicated to promoting strong and effective intellectual property rights that drive innovation, boost economic competitiveness, and improve lives everywhere.” The C4IP goal is to “elevate the importance of strong domestic and international IP rights through a range of advocacy programs, initiatives, and campaigns.” It seeks to “forge a coalition of pro-innovation stakeholders to serve as advocates within political, governmental, and non-governmental organizations.” Under the Menu options, debaters can select the “Media” and then “Op-Eds” tab to gain access to numerous useful articles on the 2024-25 national policy topic.

Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS): <https://www.csis.org/>

This organization identifies its purpose as “to define the future of national security. We are guided by a distinct set of values – non-partisanship, independent thought, innovative thinking, cross-disciplinary scholarship, integrity and professionalism, and talent development. CSIS’s values work in concert toward the goal of making real-world impact. CSIS scholars bring their policy expertise, judgment, and robust networks to their research, analysis, and recommendations. We organize conferences, publish, lecture, and make media appearances that aim to increase the knowledge, awareness, and salience of policy issues with relevant stakeholders and the interested public.” By using the search box, debaters can access articles such as “Four Actions to Strengthen the U.S. Intellectual Property System,” “Proposed Federal Use of March-in Rights Would Weaken American Innovation,” and “How a Potential Covid-19 TRIPS Waiver Expansion Would Undermine U.S. Innovation Capabilities.”

Computer and Communications Industry Association (CCIA): <https://ccianet.org/>

This organization describes itself as “an international, not-for-profit trade association representing a broad cross section of communications and technology firms. For more than 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than \$100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy.” By clicking the “Advocacy” tab, debaters can access dozens of useful articles including “Digital Copyright Piracy: Protecting American Consumers, Workers, and Creators,” “Understanding AI: A Guide to Sensible Governance,” and “Artificial Intelligence and Copyright.”

Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF): <https://www.eff.org/>

According to its website, “The Electronic Frontier Foundation is the leading nonprofit organization defending civil liberties in the digital world. Founded in 1990, EFF champions user privacy, free expression, and innovation through impact litigation, policy analysis, grassroots activism, and technology development. EFF’s mission is to ensure that technology supports freedom, justice, and innovation for all people of the world.” By using the search box, the debater can find recent articles such as “Stupid Patent of the Month: Trying to Get U.S. Patents on an AI Program” and “Why Is the U.S. Solicitor General Trying to Change the Law to Benefit Patent Trolls?”

Free State Foundation (FSF): <https://freestatefoundation.org>

According to its website, “the Free State Foundation is a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank. Its purpose is to promote, through research and educational activities, understanding of free market, free speech, limited government, and rule of law principles at the federal level and in Maryland, and to advocate laws and policies true to these principles. FSF focuses on eliminating unnecessary and counterproductive regulatory mandates, especially those applicable to the communications and other high-tech industries, and on reducing overly burdensome taxes, protecting individual and economic liberty, including property rights, and making government more effective, efficient, and accountable. The scholars of The Free State Foundation, led by Randolph May, have decades of experience in the public policy arena and academic settings promoting free markets, secure property rights, and individual liberty.” The website’s “Publications” tab will offer access to articles such as “The ‘No AI Fraud Act’ Would Secure IP Rights Consistent With the First Amendment” and “Copyright Case Affirming Human Creativity Sets the Stage for AI Issues.”

Heritage Foundation: <https://www.heritage.org/>

This group claims to be “building an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish. Heritage’s mission is to formulate and promote public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values, and a strong national defense. Heritage’s world-renowned experts – deeply experienced in business, government, the military, nonprofits, academia, and communications – spend each day developing innovative solutions to the issues America faces. From empowering parents in education, reversing growing spending and inflation, and protecting the unborn, to securing America’s borders, countering the threat of Communist China, holding Big Tech accountable, and ensuring free and fair elections – Heritage is on the front lines in the fight to help Americans thrive.” Recent documents available on this website include the following: “Big Tech’s Abuse of Patent Owners in the PTAB Must End” and “For Biomedical Innovation, Congress Should Follow the Maxim ‘First, Do No Harm.’”

High Tech Investors Alliance (HTIA): www.hightechinventors.com/

This organization explains its mission as to promote quality in the U.S. patent system: “Innovation is what drives success in the high-technology industry. The present crisis of patent quality, baseless patent assertions, and the scourge of patent troll litigation must be remedied so that the patent system works properly and supports innovation. The High Tech Inventors Alliance (HTIA) advocates for balanced reforms in the Patent and Trademark Office, the courts, and Congress that address the root causes of these problems while advancing a patent system that promotes investment in new technologies and American jobs. We collectively invested over \$146 billion in research and development last year, hold nearly 350,000 U.S. assets and support tens of millions of jobs created as a result of the innovative goods and services our members provide.” Articles available by clicking the “Resources” tab include the following: “Address Threats to the U.S. Patent System: Promote American Jobs And Innovation” and “Inter Partes Review Is Working.”

Hoover Institution: www.hoover.org

According to its website, “the Hoover Institution seeks to improve the human condition by advancing ideas that promote economic opportunity and prosperity, while securing and safeguarding peace for America and all mankind.” By using the search box on the website’s home page, the debater can access document such as “The Real Contest With China,” “China’s Grand Strategy For Global Data Dominance,” and “China’s Future Ain’t What It Used to Be.”

Independent Institute: <https://www.independent.org/>

This group declares that its mission “is to boldly advance peaceful, prosperous, and free societies grounded in a commitment to human worth and dignity.” While it seems that Independent Institute scholars tend to express politically conservative viewpoints, the group’s official position is that it is not influenced by partisan politics: “Today, the influence of partisan interests is so pervasive that public-policy debate has become too politicized and is largely confined to a narrow reconsideration of existing policies. In order to fully understand the nature of public issues and possible solutions, the Institute’s program adheres to the highest standards of independent scholarly inquiry.” Recent reports include the following: “Protecting Intellectual Property Rights Will Save Lives Now and in the Future,” “Why Are There Drug Shortages,” and “Price Controls on Drugs Would Save Lives, but Also Take Them.”

Institute for Policy Innovation (IPI): <https://www.ipi.org/>

This group writes that its “focus is on approaches to governing that harness the strengths of individual liberty, limited government, and free markets. IPI emphasizes getting its studies into the hands of the press and policy makers so that the ideas they contain can be applied to the challenges facing us today. IPI is engaged in an extensive publication program of policy studies, issue briefs, newsletters and books on public policy issues, all of which are available in electronic form at this site. Though IPI is a non-partisan organization, we approach policy issues from a consistent philosophical viewpoint of individual liberty and responsibility, free markets, and limited government.” By using the search box, the debater can gain access to articles such as “Blame Washington for Drug Shortages” and “Intellectual Property Protection Is the Key to Our Innovation Economy.”

Intellectual Property Owners Association (IPO): <https://ipo.org/>

According to its website, the “IPO advocates for effective and affordable IP ownership rights and offers a wide array of services, including supporting member interests relating to legislative and international issues; analyzing current IP issues; providing information and educational services; and disseminating information to the public on the importance of IP rights.”

Mercatus Center at George Mason University: <https://www.mercatus.org/>

According to its website, this organization seeks to advance “knowledge about how markets solve problems and help us lead happier, healthier, and richer lives. For more than 40 years, Mercatus has supported leading talent and scholarship in the mainline economics tradition, applying rigorous research to real-world concerns.” Recent articles include “Aligning Intellectual Property, Antitrust, and National Security Policy,” “Think Big: Tell Us Your Wildest New Year Dreams for IP,” and “From AI to Amgen, Here’s Everything IP that Mattered in 2023.”

National Bureau of Economic Research: <https://www.nber.org/>

This organization describes itself as “a network of nearly 1,700+ economists who hold primary appointments at North American colleges and universities. These researchers are leaders in the field: Forty-three current or former NBER affiliates have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences, and 13 have chaired the President’s Council of Economic Advisers.” Recent articles include “Blockchain for Timely Transfer of Intellectual Property,” “Intellectual Property Infringement by Foreign Firms: Import Protection through the ITC or Court,” and “Patenting Inventions or Inventing Patents? Continuation Practice at the USPTO.”

National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center (IPR Center): <https://www.iprcenter.gov/>

According to its website, “the IPR Center is the U.S. government’s frontline response to stop global IP theft and enforce international trade laws. The IPR Center strives to share critical information and raise awareness to the dangers of IP theft, fraud, cyber intrusions, and trade violations by coordinating with 25 key federal and international government agencies, as well as private sector partners to combat IP theft around the world. Through these partnerships the IPR Center can disrupt illegal activities, investigate bad actors and disseminate necessary information to protect the U.S.”

New York Times: www.nytimes.com

The *New York Times* is a premier U.S. newspaper for coverage of national security and privacy issues. As with many newspaper websites, however, access is limited for non-subscribers. This website allows non-subscribers free access to up to 10 articles per month. Find the website’s search engine by first clicking the three horizontal bars at the left side of the page. By entering “intellectual property” in the search box, the debater can access articles such as the following: “Boom in AI Prompts a Test of Copyright Law,” and “China Continues to Fall Short of Promises to Protect Intellectual Property, U.S. says.”

Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC): <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ipec/>

According to its website, “the Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator (IPEC) was established in 2008 to advise the President and coordinate with Cabinet departments and agencies on the development of the United States’ overall intellectual property policy and strategy, to promote innovation and creativity, and to ensure effective intellectual property protection and enforcement, domestically and abroad. It is part of the Executive Office of the President.” Reports available from this website include an 163-page document entitled “Annual Intellectual Property Report to Congress.”

Office of the United States Trade Representative: <https://ustr.gov/>

This office is responsible for the negotiation, implementation, and monitoring of intellectual property provisions of trade agreements; bilateral and regional engagement through IP dialogues with trading partners; multilateral engagement on IP issues through the World Trade Organization (WTO), and implementation of trade policy in support of U.S. innovations, including those in the pharmaceutical and medical technology industries. The “News” tab will provide access to documents such as “2023 Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Protection and Enforcement” and “Findings of the Investigation into China’s Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation under Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.”

Public Citizen: <https://www.citizen.org/>

According to its website, “Public Citizen is a nonprofit consumer advocacy organization that champions the public interest in the halls of power. We defend democracy, resist corporate power and work to ensure that government works for the people – not for big corporations.” Recent articles include “People Over Patents” and “Analysis Shows Amgen’s Gaming Of Patent System Cost Medicare More Than a Billion in Savings Over Less Than Four Years.”

Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA): www.siiia.net

This organization describes itself as “the voice for the specialized information industry. Our members provide data, content and information that drives the global economy, informs financial networks and connects learners and educators. SIIA unites, defends and promotes our diverse membership. Learn more about our educational and networking opportunities, events and benefits helping you grow your business, your career and the industry at large.” By entering “intellectual property” in the search box, the debater can access articles such as “The Case for Right to Repair Has Not Been Made,” and “The Copyrightability of Generative AI Output.”

R Street Institute: <https://www.rstreet.org/>

According to its website, “the R Street Institute is the leading think tank engaged in policy research in support of free markets and limited, effective government. We work to bolster American innovation, increase consumer choice and protect individual liberty and believe in smaller, smarter government. We are a think tank for the modern age. We focus on deep scholarship and pragmatic policy solutions that many groups tend to neglect. Our goal is to publish timely, relevant research and analysis that advances a market-oriented society and limited, effective government. To that end, our motto is: “Free Markets. Real Solutions.” Recent articles available from this website include the following: “How a Broken Patent System Contributes to Unaffordable Prescription Drugs” and “Patent Trolls, Legitimate Plaintiffs Expose Flawed Patent Process.”

United for Patent Reform: www.unitedforpatentreform.com

This group describes itself as “a broad coalition of diverse American businesses, small and large – from national construction companies, automobile manufacturers, and technology businesses to Main Street retail shops, realtors, hotels, grocers, convenience stores, and restaurants – that have come together to advocate for a comprehensive solution to abuses of our current patent system.” By clicking the “Resources” tab debaters can access articles such as “Abusive Patent Litigation Continues to Rise” and “Startups and Patent Trolls.”

United States Chamber of Commerce: <https://www.uschamber.com/>

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce explains that its mission is to represent the interests of the business community: “Since our founding, the U.S. Chamber has advocated for policies that help businesses create jobs and grow our economy. Building on a strong legacy of trust and track record of success, we help today’s businesses start, grow, and thrive in a complex and constantly changing macro environment. We inform our members with timely policy analysis and legal advice, connect them with leaders in business and government through world-class events and intimate gatherings, and equip them with tools and resources to help them succeed.” Recent articles available from this website include “A New Narrative on Intellectual Property Rights: A Blueprint to Safeguard America’s Innovators, Creators, and Brand Owners,” and “Making the Case: The Economic Rationale for Intellectual Property Rights.”

United States Congress: www.congress.gov

This website provides a one-stop-shop for access to current legislation. By clicking the “Legislation” tab and using the search box, the debater can receive an update on the status of bills or resolutions dealing with the 2024-25 topic. Some recent examples in the 118th Congress are S.2173: “Trademark Licensing Protection Act of 2023” and S.511: “Protect America’s Innovation and Economic Security from the Chinese Communist Party Act.”

United States Copyright Office: <https://www.copyright.gov/>

This is the official site of the U.S. Copyright Office, which is a department of the Library of Congress, whose mission is to promote creativity by administering and sustaining an effective national copyright system. This site provides an overview of U.S. copyright law as well as useful information on topics such as “Copyright and Artificial Intelligence,” “Copyright Small Claims,” and the “Music Modernization Act.”

United States International Trade Commission (ITC): <https://www.usitc.gov/>

This is the primary U.S. government agency to investigate claims regarding intellectual property rights in U.S. trade relations with other countries, including allegations of patent infringement and trademark infringement by imported goods. The Commission also adjudicates complaints of unfair competition involving imported products, such as infringement of registered copyrights, misappropriation of trade secrets or trade dress, and false advertising. Hundreds of reports on particular investigations are available by clicking on the link for “Staff Publications and Research Papers.” Examples of recent reports include “Right to Repair: Impact on Competitiveness of Agricultural Machinery,” “Offshore Wind Is Blasting Into the United States,” and “Quantum Computing: Industry Developments.”

United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO): <https://www.uspto.gov/>

This is the official U.S. government agency for granting patents and registering trademarks. The USPTO implements the mandate of Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the Constitution that the legislative branch “promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries.” Recent articles available from the “Recent News” section of this website include “USPTO Expands and Extends Climate Change Mitigation Pilot Program,” “Trademarks and Patents in China,” and “Economic Value of Intellectual Property.”

Suggestions for Online Lincoln Douglas Research

Dictionary of Western Philosophy:

Philosophy professor, Garth Kemerling, maintains this site, offering the following description: “This is a concise guide to technical terms and personal names often encountered in the study of philosophy. What you will find here naturally reflects my own philosophical interests and convictions, but everything is meant to be clear, accurate, and fair, a reliable source of information on Western philosophy for a broad audience”: <http://www.philosophypages.com/dy/index.htm>

Glossary of Philosophy:

This lengthy set of philosophical terms primarily comes from *Student Resources for Introduction to Philosophy*, written by John Perry, Michael Bratman, and John Martin Fischer. It now appears in the following Wikipedia page: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glossary_of_philosophy

Guide to Philosophy on the Internet:

Operated by Peter Suber of the philosophy department at Earlham College.
<http://legacy.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm>

Immanuel Kant: An Introduction to the Work of Kant:

This is an excellent site – part of the “Great Thinker” series – providing an overview of the moral philosophy of Kant: <https://thegreatthinkers.org/kant/introduction/>

Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy:

This is a one-stop-shop for finding the meaning of key terms in philosophy as well as a brief overview of the biography and teachings of major and minor philosophers.
<http://www.iep.utm.edu/>

Introduction to Philosophy:

This is an Online philosophy textbook (in seventeen chapters) written by Dallas M. Roark, professor at Emporia State University : <http://www.qcc.cuny.edu/SocialSciences/ppecorino/roark-textbook/default.htm>

Project Gutenberg:

The description offered by this site: “Project Gutenberg offers over 54,000 free eBooks: Choose among free epub books, free kindle books, download them or read them online. You will find the world's great literature here, especially older works for which copyright has expired” <http://www.gutenberg.org/>

Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:

This site describes itself as follows: “The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy organizes scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work.” The site allows a simple search box as well as a clickable Table of Contents: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>

The Basics of Philosophy:

This site offers the following selectable tabs dealing with all aspects of philosophy: General, By Branch/Doctrine, By Historical Period, By Movement/School, By Individual Philosopher: <http://www.philosophybasics.com/>