Using the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center

If there ever was an academic database with W131 students in mind, the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center is certainly it.

Easy to use, this database covers just about every topic that you could want to develop from the Mercury Reader.

As its name implies, this database gives you a wide variety of views, on a huge number of topics, all organized in an easy to search and an even easier to find, index-like format. The special beauty of this database is that it gives you opposing viewpoints, which, of course, help make your paper longer, and help you sound like a more reasonable, thoughtful person. You can still land on the side of the issue you want to, but you can also point out what other people think about the same issue, and then show your reader how they are wrong and you are right!

To get started: just go to the IPFW home page: www.ipfw.edu

The click right here to open a pop down menu and go to Databases and Indexes; after you press “Go” you will see this:
Now go to “O” and click and you will see this:

Click here, and you will go to the Galenet hompeage (you may have to log in with your IPFW computer account info someplace along the line – same info as VISTA):
Depending on your browser, you'll probably have to scroll down to the bottom of this page to find Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center:

Now (at last) you are reading to enter the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. What you'll find is a page laid out like an index, with dozens of topics, but a search box at the top. You can either click on a topic or you can do a search for your topic if you don't see exactly what you are looking for.
Clicking on "AIDS, for example, gives you this:
Now notice the “tabs” that go across the page just above the list of articles:

The first tab, in this case, is white, which means you are looking at a list of “Viewpoint” articles, usually prepared by authors who work for Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center. For other articles, usually from journalists, go to the tab marked “Magazines and Newspapers.” Notice there are also tabs marked “Statistics” and also “Images.” If these tabs are black (not gray), then that means your search also found statistics and images that you can use in your paper.

I love images, and they impress me if you use them well. They don’t count towards page length, but if they illustrate your argument, then your argument is that much stronger. Cite a picture simply by writing a cutline under it that tells what the picture is and where you got it from. To download a picture to your computer, just right click on it. To “insert” it into Word, just go to the “Insert” pull-down menu in your menu bar.

Speaking of citing, the info you need for your Works Cited list is found at the END of the article IF you found the article under the “Viewpoints” tab.

For example, here’s the info from the first article:

To help you read it more clearly, I’ve copied and pasted it here:

What we have here is an article or chapter written by Vanessa Warner, in a book edited by Helen Cothran and published by Greenhaven Press in 2001 found through the GaleNet database search engine on today’s date (April 2, 2004). So, GaleNet gives special instructions for citing this MLA style. You begin the citation as normal, with the author, then the title of the article, then the name of the book, then the editor of the book, then you add the search engine stuff.

In this case, the citation should look like this:

**In-text Citations:**

OPRC articles do not have page numbers, therefore you can’t cite them in your parenthetical citations. So, simply use the authors name in your run-in phrase and don’t give any citation at all. For example:

Vanessa Warner, in her article about abstinence, reports that “there is no such thing as safe-sex.” Warner explained this by noting, “the failure rate of condoms is shockingly high a dirty little secret that the birth-control industry does not tell you.”

That’s all – no page number, just a reference to her name as you lead-in to the quote.

Worth Weller
wellerw@ipfw.edu
4.5.04