

## OVERVIEW

Students will use the Topics at a Glance section of the Roper Center Web Site to learn about opinion on one of the 50 topics offered. Working in pairs students will become journalists and prepare a newspaper article from the research garnered from the resources on Roper Center site and then supplement the information with other sources. The detailed articles may even include real or pretend interviews. Each student will assume the role of either a contemporary journalist or one from a previous decade analyzing polling and other information to complete the article.

## PREREQUISITE KNOWLEDGE

Ability to navigate the Internet, keyboarding skills, use a word processor

## DELIVERABLES

Students will write a newspaper article.

## MATERIALS

You will need a computer with Internet access, word processor.

You will find the information you need from this website:

[www.RoperCenter.UConn.edu](http://www.RoperCenter.UConn.edu)

This is a starting place; feel free to search the Internet or visit the library for other related information to supplement and improve your understanding of the issue.

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## ASSIGNMENT

Assume you are a reporter for a national (US) newspaper. Your assignment is ... the topic you select from the list provided at Topics at a Glance:

[http://roperweb.ropercenter.uconn.edu/cgi-bin/hsrun.exe/Roperweb/newpom/newpom.htx:start=HS\\_pom\\_list](http://roperweb.ropercenter.uconn.edu/cgi-bin/hsrun.exe/Roperweb/newpom/newpom.htx:start=HS_pom_list)

This website will help you answer questions and to prepare your project. This is a starting place; consider other sources for related information.

Working in pairs, browse the links to the nearly fifty different subjects in Topics at a Glance. Use a word processor or take detailed notes to collect your information. It is up to you what issue,

policy, or topic you wish to focus on. (NOTE: Teachers may wish to maintain a list of topics selected to avoid overlap.) Choose an area that is of interest to you.

Consider your topic carefully. Is there an international component? What are the ramifications of the policy for the future? How does the matter impact families, politicians, workers, men, women, children, minorities, etc. Are there positive and negative attributes to the policy? Is there still work to be done?

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Each member of the team will prepare an article that would appear in the newspaper.

- ▣ One person will write a piece on how the public feels currently about the matter. This will include a comparative component, since this reporter has the benefit of looking back at other surveys from different time periods.
  
- ▣ The other person will write their article on how the earliest surveys on the issue reported public opinion. This perspective should not take into account any of the most current data and should be written as though the reporter is living the period in which s/he is writing.

Be creative! Interview imaginary people about the issue—perhaps from different vantage points; reference events, people, places, policies and organizations; reference editorials, articles, TV reports, radio broadcasts, etc.

Write in a clear, unbiased, and concise manner.

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Teacher Tips:

Want to take this another step?

1. Turn the articles into a radio or even a television report. Have students create an audio or video tape.
  
2. Facilitate a class forum. Divide students into two groups—favor vs. oppose the different positions of the topic. Each group researches their position and presents it to the other in a debate-like setting.