EXAMPLES OF CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES QUESTIONS

1. **ABORTION.** Should underage girls be required to have parental consent? Is abortion an “all or nothing” issue?

2. **ADOPITION.** Under what circumstances, if any, should there be access to adoption records? Should gays be allowed to adopt?

3. **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION.** Is it still needed? Is it really quotas in disguise? Is there a way to implement it without “reverse discrimination”?

4. **AIDS.** Should there be mandatory testing? Is the “AIDS epidemic” in the U.S. over? How should the world respond to the AIDS epidemic in Africa?

5. **ALTERNATE LIFESTYLES.** Should unmarried couples have the legal rights of married couples?

6. **BUSINESS.** Should companies be allowed to sell the information in their customer records? Should there be stronger “truth in advertising” laws? Should CEOs be held legally responsible for the frauds committed by their companies?

7. **CENSORSHIP.** The pros and cons of rating movies, records, TV shows, etc. Should Internet access be filtered? Who should decide what books are used in classrooms/available in libraries?

8. **CHURCH AND STATE.** Has separation gone too far?

9. **COMPUTERS.** How do we reconcile adult rights with the need to protect children? How will privacy be affected by the “information superhighway”?

10. **CRIME.** Victims’ vs. defendants’ rights. Is “three strikes” working? How do we prevent “identity theft”?

11. **DEATH.** Should a person have “the right to die”? What can be done to curb teen suicides? Should physician-assisted suicide be legal?

12. **DRUGS.** Is it time to try legalization? Should marijuana for medicinal use be permitted? Should all current prescription drugs become “over the counter”?

13. **DRUNK DRIVING.** Is a drunk driver sick or a criminal?

14. **EDUCATION.** Can our public school system be “fixed”? Is using vouchers for parochial schools constitutional? Is home schooling a viable alternative? Is there any value to standardized tests? Is “social promotion” really bad? Is “zero tolerance” a good way to assure safety?

15. **ENVIRONMENT.** Preserving the environment vs. the need for jobs. Is global warming really a problem?

16. **FOREIGN AID.** Should we help other countries before helping ourselves?

17. **GENETIC ENGINEERING.** Should human cloning be permitted? Should companies be able to patent genes? The pros and cons of stem cell research.

18. **GUN CONTROL.** Is there a way to preserve second amendment rights while protecting the public? Does the second amendment really protect the right of everyone to have a gun?

19. **HOLOCAUST.** Has it ever happened here? Could it happen here?

20. **HUMAN RIGHTS.** Should they be a factor in our dealings with other countries? What constitute “basic human rights”? The pros and cons of helping “oppressive” regimes who are pro-USA.

21. **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS.** What is the best way to deal with the problem?

22. **INCOME TAX.** Flat tax vs. graduated tax: the only alternatives?

23. **LITERACY.** What can we do to improve literacy in this country?

24. **MEDIA.** Does watching violence on TV create a more violent child? How does the media portray gender roles/the different races?

25. **MEDICINE.** Possible ways to cut costs. Should medical care be rationed? Would national insurance lead to socialized medicine?

26. **MILITARY.** Should gays be allowed to serve? Should women be able to hold any military position? How can the military recruit/keep personnel? The pros and cons of consolidating/partially consolidating the branches into one unit.

27. **MULTICULTURALISM.** Is it bringing us together or driving us apart? Should English be made the official language of the US?

28. **POLITICS.** Should tax exempt groups who engage in political activities lose their exemption? How can we encourage more participation in the political process, including voting? How do we ensure a complete and fair census? Should the Electoral College be abolished? Should there be time limits on campaigning? What would constitute true campaign finance reform?

29. **PRIVACY.** Where should privacy begin and end? The pros and cons of Caller ID. How do we keep our privacy in the computer age? What are the implications of “cookies”? Should medical records/any records be “for sale”?

30. **SEX.** Have we taken the concept of sexual harassment too far? Should a rape victim’s name be publicized without her consent? Are women still discriminated against?

31. **SOCIAL SECURITY.** Should there be a "means test" in order to collect?

32. **SPORTS.** Should municipalities be paying for sports stadia? Is the use of steroids a serious problem?

33. **WELFARE.** Should welfare recipients have to work for their money?
POSSIBLE SUBJECT HEADINGS FOR CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES (NOTE: NOT ALL THESE TOPICS WILL BE FOUND IN EVERY INDEX)

1. ABORTION
   PRO-LIFE MOVEMENT
   RIGHT TO LIFE
   TEENAGERS ABORTION

2. ADOPTEES
   ADOPTION
   CHILDREN ADOPTED
   GAY ADOPTION

3. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
   DISCRIMINATION
   RACIAL QUOTAS

4. AIDS DISEASE
   EPIDEMICS
   HIV
   AIDS TESTING

5. COHABITATION
   COMMON LAW MARRIAGE
   GAY COUPLES
   LESBIAN COUPLES
   SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
   UNMARRIED COUPLES

6. BUSINESS ETHICS
   DIRECT MAIL
   DIRECT MARKETING
   MAILING LISTS
   SELLING LISTS
   ADVERTISING

7. CENSORSHIP
   MOTION PICTURE CENSORSHIP
   MUSIC CENSORSHIP
   TELEVISION CENSORSHIP

8. CHURCH AND STATE

9. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS
   INTERNET ACCESS
   INTERNET AND CHILDREN
   INTERNET CENSORSHIP

10. CRIME
    REPARATIONS
    VICTIMS OF CRIME
    IDENTITY THEFT

11. DEATH
    EUTHANASIA
    RIGHT TO DIE
    TERMINAL CARE
    TERMINALLY ILL

12. DRUG LEGALIZATION
    LEGALIZATION AND DRUGS
    LEGALIZATION AND NARCOTICS
    NARCOTICS
    MEDICAL MARIJUANA

13. DRUNK DRIVING
    DRUNKENNESS CRIMINAL LAW

14. EDUCATION
    PUBLIC SCHOOLS
    SCHOOL REFORM
    VOUCHERS
    HOME SCHOOLING

15. CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
    ECOSYSTEM
    ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
    GLOBAL WARMING
    GREENHOUSE EFFECT
    OZONE LAYER
    POLLUTION

16. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
    FOREIGN AID

17. BIOTECHNOLOGY
    CLONING
    GENETIC ENGINEERING
    RECOMBINANT DNA
    STEM CELLS

18. FIREARMS
    GUN CONTROL
    CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

19. GENOCIDE
    GENOCIDE INDIANS
    HOLOCAUST
    JAPANESE CAMPS
    JAPANESE EVACUATION

20. CIVIL RIGHTS
    HUMAN RIGHTS
    POLITICAL PRISONERS
    WOMEN'S RIGHTS

21. ALIENS ILLEGAL
    IMMIGRANTS
    IMMIGRATION LAW

22. FLAT-RATE INCOME TAX
    INCOME TAX
    TAX REFORM
    TAXATION PROGRESSIVE

23. LITERACY
    READING

24. TELEVISION
    MINORITIES MOTION PICTURES
    SEX ROLE TELEVISION
    TELEVISION CHILDREN
    TELEVISION VIOLENCE
    WOMEN MOTION PICTURES

25. HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS (HMOs)
    HEALTH INSURANCE
    MANAGED CARE
    MEDICAL CARE
    MEDICAL ECONOMICS
    NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE
    SOCIALLY MENTAL MEDICINE

26. ARMED FORCES GAYS
    ARMED FORCES WOMEN
    ARMY WOMEN
    GAYS MILITARY
    NAVY WOMEN
    WOMEN MILITARY

27. ENGLISH ONLY
    ETHNIC GROUPS
    ETHNICITY
    MULTICULTURALISM

28. ELECTORAL COLLEGE
    NONPROFIT
    POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS
    TAX EXEMPTION LAWS
    TAX EXEMPTION POLITICS
    VOTING

29. COMPUTER SECURITY
    MEDICAL RECORDS ACCESS
    PRIVACY
    PRIVACY RIGHT

30. DISCRIMINATION WOMEN
    RAPE
    RAPE VICTIMS
    SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION
    SEXUAL HARASSMENT
    TRIALS RAPE

31. OLD AGE PENSIONS
    RETIREMENT
    SOCIAL SECURITY

32. STEROIDS

33. AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN (AFDC)
    PUBLIC WELFARE
    WORKFARE

(VO-1/03)