

## **Adolescents**

- Stress and its effects on young people today
- The process of applying to college
- Solutions to prevent high-school drop outs
- Should contraceptives be available in high schools?
- What do adults need to know about teenagers, that they don't already?

## **Advertising**

- False advertising
- Political campaign advertising and its effects
- Sexism in the media
- To what extent should the government control advertising
- Ads for tobacco and alcohol

## **Social Problems**

- Censorship in art and/or media
- Should convicted criminals be eligible for social welfare?
- Mandatory HIV testing or testing for drugs
- Does poverty fosters crime?
- Is hunting (deer, birds) necessary or ethical?

## **Transportation**

- Should airlines be nationalized
- The car as a status symbol
- The minimum age or the ideal age to get a driver's license
- The effects of increasing or eliminating speed limits on the highways

## **Children**

- The possible effects of videogames or violent toys on children
- What does a child learn from fairy tales and Disney movies?
- What kids can learn from grandparents and great-grandparents
- How to train or hire a reliable babysitter
- The worst nightmare of my childhood/or the best dream I can remember

## **Community**

- Should fire arms be required to be registered with the police...why or why not
- The effects of gangs in and beyond urban centers
- The advantages and disadvantages of legalizing gambling
- Write an editorial to your mayor complaining about problems in your town or city
- What the individual can do to help protect the environment

## **Consumerism**

- The effects of fast food on your health
- Cell phones, television, computers...luxuries or necessity?
- Are brand name clothes worth the price (Abercrombie, Ralph Lauren, Nike)?
- Advantages and disadvantages of credit cards

## **Current events**

- The importance of the "going green."
- How is the economy affecting teenagers?
- Modern-day heroes and idols for young people
- Do you agree with the President? Where do your opinions come from?

## **Customs and Traditions**

- How to plan a surprise party
- Smoking in public places
- What are the point of tattoos?
- How the institution of marriage has changed for modern society

## **The Environment and Pollution**

- The causes and effects of acid rain
- The causes and effects of noise pollution
- Should recycling be mandatory...why or why not?
- The pros and cons of being vegetarian

## **Family**

- What every father/mother should know about raising children
- The impact of divorce
- Same sex marriages
- The concept of family in the US vs. Latin America, Europe, Asia
- The ideal age to get married/to have children

## **Fashion**

- Is buying/wearing a fur coat unethical?
- School uniforms should/should not be required
- Describe the fashion styles of the 70s/80s/90s
- The impact of sweatshops on the clothing industry
- European influence on fashion in the US

## **Food**

- How diet is influenced by religious beliefs
- How to prepare your favorite dish
- Myths and misunderstandings about certain food items
- Should fast food restaurants have to make their food healthier?
- Eating disorders and how to prevent them or cope with them

## **The future**

- Should the US continue space (and other planets) exploration?
- UFOs: Reality or fantasy
- The benefits of solar energy
- The car/house/school/workplace of the future
- The impact of overpopulation

## **Government**

- The role of First Lady of the US
- Do the states need and deserve more autonomy?
- Pros and cons of social welfare programs
- The national deficit

## **Health**

- The benefits and risks of organ transplants
- Hunger in the Third World
- Unnecessary operations by surgeons/corruption in the health care industry
- The effects of caffeine on your diet
- Bodybuilding: Only for the ego or for health reasons

## **Philosophy**

- Does the American Dream still exist? What does it consist of?
- How does one define love/honor/truth
- Is lying OK sometimes?
- Is terrorism revolutionary?
- Today's attitudes about what is good and bad/right and wrong
- "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth." Discuss.

## **Debate Topics**

- Euthanasia/Death with dignity
- Experiments on animals (for medicine, cosmetics, etc)
- Abortion
- Death penalty
- Affirmative action
- Donating organs for transplant or in exchange for money
- Foreign aid
- Sex education in schools
- Violence in the cinema and on TV
- Prayer in schools
- A flat tax (fixed income tax)
- Tobacco advertising and its effects
- Animal rights
- Immigration laws
- Gun control
- The military's former policy of "Don't ask, don't tell"
- Censorship
- Global warming
- Televised court decisions
- Year-round schools
- Drug testing for athletes, coaches, teachers
- Eliminating the grading system in high schools
- Eliminating the SAT or the ACT for college admission
- English as the official language in the US
- Locker searches in schools
- Women on the battlefield (role in the military)
- Effects of rap and hip-hop lyrics on teen language/behavior
- Can money buy happiness/what money can't buy?
- If you could create a national holiday for someone (past or present), whom would you choose and why?
- The commercialization of the sports industry