NovelNY Database Usage at SUNY Morrisville

Michelle Mitchell, Instructional Services Librarian
mitchemk@morrisville.edu
Morrisville Fast Facts

- **Student population**
  - Approximately 3,000 enrolled students
  - Offers both associate and bachelor’s degree programs
  - Agriculture & Technology University

- **Instruction Sessions**
  - Average of 110 instruction sessions taught per year
NovelNY Database Usage

Top Databases:
1. Britannica Online (43%; 4,575 Full Text)
2. Opposing Viewpoints (30%; 3,197 Full Text)
3. Academic One File (11%; 1,122 Full Text)
4. General One File (3%; 322 Full Text)
5. Agriculture Collection; New York State Newspapers; & Business Insights: Essentials (2%; Total Full Text 638)
6. Nursing and Allied Health Collection (1%; 116 Full Text)
The reference entries appearing in results aid in student learning to further their understanding of a topic.
Opposing Viewpoints: Assignments
Opposing Viewpoints: Faculty Testimonies
“The Opposing Viewpoints database has been a useful tool in classes to present students with topics that can be difficult to come up with on their own, particularly in COMP 101 where they are getting their first glimpse of academic discourse as well as learning a variety of skills, terminology, and concepts which altogether can be understandably overwhelming. In the least, showing students the topics that are possible with the Opposing Viewpoints articles gives them a sense of the types of position-based, research-based argument that is necessary to their academic success. Over the years, I will at least have one or two students in a class who find a topic and sources they pursue thanks to this database, and moving forward I would love to use it as a way to highlight what argument might look like before prompting the students to discover their own topics through research. At its best, that is, Opposing Viewpoints presents students with articles and forms of academic discussion that can help or even direct their studies; in the least, I see it as a valuable tool for teaching if not content then form.”

-Aron Efimenko, Associate Professor in the Humanities Department
“Opposing Viewpoints is useful to any level of writing course because of its usability and concentrated collection of sources. The engaging content, categorization of content and searchability help me in delivering instruction on them. In my experience, first year students struggle the most with narrowing a topic and being able to support their ideas with more than opinion. **Opposing Viewpoints bridges the gap between student opinion and student argument. Students can more easily enter academic argument through this database.**

The interface is easily comprehensible and space is used nicely to engage students. The tools available ease student stress and show them that research can be managed and is not always overwhelming. It also has current topics and delineates types of sources students can feel more comfortable with source types, citations, and searching within the database. **It is my primary choice for database introduction and has worked in class at technical colleges, four year universities and community college. In my experience, it has been universally beneficial and positive for students and for me as the instructor.**

-Rachelann Copland, Adjunct Professor in the Humanities Department
“In Composition 101, I use Opposing Viewpoints as a stepping stone to writing an argument essay. The database allows easy access to multiple subjects across a wide range of topics. The database gives students a greater depth of knowledge on multiple topics. It helps the students delve deeper into their arguments, and the arguments of others. Simply, something “different” to think about. Understanding the opposition helps the students forward their own argument. In addition, **Opposing Viewpoints is also user friendly. Subjects are organized in a way students can just click on a topic and instantly begin to find information to craft an argument or even go in a different direction by exploring subjects they may not have considered.** The database is an excellent place to send students when they say, ‘I just do not know what to write about.’”

-Laura Pierie, Assistant Professor in the Humanities Department
Other Popular NovelNY Databases

- **Business Insights: Essentials**
  - BSAD 100 — Fortune 500 research project

- **Academic OneFile and General OneFile**
  - Interdisciplinary databases
  - Helps students think outside their scope

- **New York State Newspapers**
  - HIST 320 — New York State history projects
Questions?