Contents

Why Consider Opposing Viewpoints?	11
Introduction	14
Chapter 1: What Is the State of the Middle Class in America?	
Chapter Preface	20
1. The Middle Class Possesses Luxuries, Job Security, and Little Credit Card Debt Clive Crook	22
2. The Middle Class Is in Debt Brian Purnell	30
3. The Middle Class Is Not Saving Christian E. Weller	37
4. The Middle Class Has Lost Its Work Ethic David Brooks	43
5. The Middle Class Is Losing Health Insurance Coverage Mary Agnes Carey and Rebecca Adams	49
6. The Middle Class Is an Illusion to Keep Workers from Rising Up Pat Barile	57
7. Upward Mobility Is Becoming a Myth in America Paul Krugman	62
Periodical Bibliography	69
Chapter 2: How Do Middle-Class Values Impact Society?	
Chapter Preface	71
1. Middle-Class Consumerism Is Out of Control Rodney Smith	73

2. Middle-Class Consumerism Is Not Out of Control	80
Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi	
3. Gentrification Improves American Cities Stephen Zacks	89
4. Gentrification Threatens to Displace Low-Income City Residents Kathe Newman and Elvin Wyly	96
5. Teaching Middle-Class Values Leads to Success Naomi Schaefer Riley	105
6. Teaching Middle-Class Values Is a Euphemism for Teaching Whiteness <i>Lisa Arrastía</i>	111
Periodical Bibliography	124
Chapter 3: What Is the Status of Minorities in America's Middle Class?	
Chapter Preface	126
1. The Hispanic Middle Class Is Growing Joel Russell	128
2. Government Policy Reform Is Necessary for the Hispanic Middle Class to Grow Jennifer Wheary	134
3. The Demographics of Middle-Class Blacks Are Changing <i>Kris Marsh et al.</i>	139
4. Blacks Are at Risk of Falling Out of the Middle Class Maya Payne Smart	148
5. Poor Parenting Is Keeping Many Black Children Out of the Middle Class Kay S. Hymowitz	158

Periodical Bibliography	171
Chapter 4: Is the American Middle Class in Decline?	
Chapter Preface	173
1. The Middle Class Is Worse Off than in Past Decades Tom Eblen	175
2. The Middle Class Is Better Off than in Past Decades Steve Chapman	181
3. Big Business and Big Government Are Devastating the Middle Class Lou Dobbs	186
4. Globalization Is Devastating the Middle Class <i>Gabor Steingart</i>	196
5. Unions Can Restore the Middle Class <i>Robert B. Reich</i>	205
6. The Middle Class Deserves a Tax Break Barack Obama	211
7. Obama's Tax Break Proposal Is Wrongheaded Newt Gingrich and Peter Ferrara	223
Periodical Bibliography	227
For Further Discussion	228
Organizations to Contact	232
Bibliography of Books	239
Index	243