

Need another word that means the same as “controversial”? Find 10 synonyms and 30 related words for “controversial” in this overview.

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The synonyms of “Controversial” are: contentious, disputed, moot, disputable, debatable, arguable, vexed, open to discussion, open to question, under discussion

Controversial as an Adjective

Definitions of "Controversial" as an adjective

According to the [Oxford Dictionary of English](#), “controversial” as an adjective can have the following definitions:

- *Marked by or capable of arousing controversy.*
- *Giving rise or likely to give rise to controversy or public disagreement.*



Synonyms of "Controversial" as an adjective (10 Words)

arguable	Open to argument or debate. <i>A highly arguable assumption.</i>
<u>contentious</u>	(of a person) given to provoking argument. <i>A style described as abrasive and contentious.</i>
<u>debatable</u>	Capable of being disproved. <i>It is debatable whether the country is coming out of recession.</i>
disputable	Capable of being disproved. <i>Whether it can be described as art criticism may be disputable.</i>
disputed	Subject to disagreement and debate.
<u>moot</u>	Of no legal significance (as having been previously decided). <i>The whole matter is becoming increasingly moot.</i>
open to discussion	Open and observable; not secret or hidden.
open to question	Accessible to all.
under discussion	Located below or beneath something else.
<u>vexed</u>	Troubled persistently especially with petty annoyances. <i>The vexed parents of an unruly teenager.</i>



Usage Examples of "Controversial" as an adjective

- *Years of wrangling over a controversial bypass.*
- *A controversial decision on affirmative action.*
- *The issue of the death penalty is highly controversial.*
- *Rushdie's controversial book.*



Associations of "Controversial" (30 Words)

- argument** An independent variable associated with a function or proposition and determining its value For example in the expression $y = F(x)$ the arguments of the function F are x and the value is y .
*It was a strong **argument** that his hypothesis was true.*
- cloture** A rule for limiting or ending debate in a deliberative body.
*A **cloture** motion.*
- contention** A contentious speech act; a dispute where there is strong disagreement.
*The captured territory was the main area of **contention** between the two countries.*
- contentious** Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial.
*A **contentious** issue.*
- contentiousness** An inclination to be quarrelsome and contentious.
- controversy** A contentious speech act; a dispute where there is strong disagreement.
*The design of the building has caused **controversy**.*
- debatable** Open to doubt or debate.
*It is **debatable** whether the country is coming out of recession.*

debate	The formal presentation of a stated proposition and the opposition to it (usually followed by a vote. <i>There has been much debate about prices.</i>
discussion	The action or process of talking about something in order to reach a decision or to exchange ideas. <i>Discussions about environmental improvement.</i>
disproof	The action of proving that something is untrue. <i>Rex was living disproof of the youth preserving powers imputed to life in the college.</i>
disputable	Open to argument or debate. <i>Whether it can be described as art criticism may be disputable.</i>
disputation	Formal academic debate. <i>A lengthy disputation about the rights and wrongs of a particular request.</i>
disputatious	Fond of having heated arguments. <i>A disputatious lawyer.</i>
disruptive	Causing or tending to cause disruption. <i>Disruptive pupils.</i>
elocution	The skill of clear and expressive speech, especially of distinct pronunciation and articulation. <i>A Rileyesque elocution.</i>
hassel	Norwegian chemist noted for his research on organic molecules (1897-1981).
interlocutor	A person who takes part in a conversation.
issue	Supplies as food or clothing or ammunition issued by the government. <i>Water issued from the hole in the wall.</i>
litigious	Concerned with lawsuits or litigation. <i>A litigious and acrimonious spirit.</i>
<u>misunderstood</u>	Incorrectly interpreted or understood. <i>He is one of football's most misunderstood men.</i>
<u>outsider</u>	A person who does not belong to a particular organization or profession. <i>He started as a rank outsider.</i>
<u>panel</u>	Cover a wall or other surface with panels. <i>An interview panel.</i>
polemical	Of or involving dispute or controversy. <i>A polemical essay.</i>

- quarrel** An arrow that is shot from a crossbow; has a head with four edges.
*We have no **quarrel** with the people of the country only with the dictator.*
- quarrelsome** Given to or characterized by quarrelling.
***Quarrelsome** when drinking.*
- questionable** Subject to question.
*A **questionable** reputation.*
- refutable** Able to be refuted.
- rivalry** Competition for the same objective or for superiority in the same field.
*There always has been intense **rivalry** between the clubs.*
- turbulent** Characterized by conflict, disorder, or confusion; not stable or calm.
*A **turbulent** and unruly childhood.*
- unconfirmed** Not finally established or settled.
*An **unconfirmed** letter of credit.*

