**Senior Capstone Project Overview**

**Project Goal:** Students will identify an issue they wish to address, develop a research supported call to action, and create a presentation for the appropriate level of government to address the issue and proposed solution. The presentation will encompass their research on social, political and/or economic impacts of the issue, background information, and ideal impacts of their call to action.

**Grading Overview –** In class, we have discussed and examined various issues with both economic and political impacts. Your task, is to

* *Choose an issue you have researched and develop a stance (Pro/Agree or Con/Disagree) that you can defend with reliable (trustworthy) research*.
* *Annotated Bibliography*
  + *Provide research on this topic that fits the criteria of a reliable source. (minimum of 4 sources - must complete a Source Assessment for each)*
* *A letter to the appropriate elected official (Each person must write a letter - see requirements)*
* *Develop a product to enhance/support your stance.*
* *Present your stance in front of an audience.*

**Possible Topics:** Possible topics are listed below, you are not limited to this list, you may propose any controversial topic that interests you.

* National: same sex marriage, abortion, federal minimum wage, Gun control, legalizing marijuana, national education standards, immigration, illegal immigration, climate change/green energy, safe spaces vs. 1st Amendment, affirmative action, economic regulations, cost of college, healthcare, terrorism, welfare, media bias, racism, police brutality, poverty, common core, federal minimum wage, universal minimum income, socialism, happiness, cost of college
* State: decriminalizing marijuana, abortion regulation, minimum wage, gun control, traffic laws, education, sanctuary cities, death penalty, Regents testing, cost of college, state minimum wage
* Local: graduation rate 4 yrs vs 5 yrs, discipline and student success, school start time, dress codes, revitalizing downtown Albany, community concerns, school lunch
* School: Attendance, budget, open campus, discipline, dress code, mandatory minimum grade, grading policies

**Final Presentations - Your project will be presented to the class and must include the following:**

* Letter to an elected official from each group member.
  + Minimum of four sources - at least 2 must come from databases
* Then choose one of the following products:
  + Research paper(min. 800 words)
  + Formal presentation supported by PowerPoint or website
  + Video (presenting information in formal essay)
  + Art piece with support/explanation from/with essay
    - Play or spoken word or theatrical presentation of the information
    - 2D art (painting, drawing, ad campaign or digital media)
    - 3D art (sculpture/ installation)
  + Propose a final product

**Guidelines -** You may work on your own or in a group with up to four people. This project will require time both in and out of class and *will count as your FINAL.* Each group should complete this sheet and write their names in the space below.

**Group Member(s**):

**Group Norms**: *(Complete only if you’re in a group)*

*(What we agree to, to ensure that the work is completed and everyone shares in the process)*

* Please consider the following:
* *How many absences will be allowed and credit still shared*?
* *Will decisions be majority rule or unanimous*?
* *Will you agree to work outside of class to complete the project*?
* *What skills do you have? What part of the project would each person be able to contribute best to*?

**Directions** – Record your chosen issue, stance, and call to action below. This will aide you in developing your Thesis Statement.

**Example\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue** – | |
| **Liberal View:** | **Conservative View:** |
| **Your Stance on this Issue** – | |
| **You call to action** *(What do you want to see done? What are you going to try and convince people to do?)*: | |

***Please complete the following:***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Issue:** | |
| **Pro Arguments:** | **Con Arguments:** |
| **Your Stance on this Issue**: | |
| **You call to action** *(What do you want to see done? What are you going to try and convince people to do?)*: | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Group: | |
| Topic: | |
| **Core Research Questions:** | **Your Research Questions:** |
| 1. What legislation/laws/rules/policy already exist around this topic? 2. What level of government or who is responsible for changes and management of this topic? 3. What has worked in the past to make changes either about this topic or similar topics? 4. What potential positive and negative effects can occur based upon changes you want? 5. What is the opportunity cost of your proposed changes? |  |