

Senior Research Project Kick-Off

“Wisdom begins in wonder.” -Socrates (Well known wise guy)

“Don’t confine your curiosity.” - Metzler (Much, much, much lesser known dude)

In lieu of a final exam in Senior English, you’ll pursue and present a research project of your choosing. In order to “Get your mind right” (*Cool Hand Luke*), you’ll need to tap into that sense of wonder you’ve been carrying around with you since you were a toddler. To do that, you’ll need to slow down, listen to your “Inner Toddler,” and pose questions about the universe around us.

Begin by generating at least one (1) question (big or small) in each of the categories below **AND** more than one question in at least three (3) categories. Feel free to add more to your heart’s content (just like your Inner Toddler would.... But WHY? But WHY? How? How? WHY?....).

If you get stuck, try these: How does it work? Is there a better way? Why haven’t we solved it yet? What’s the greatest obstacle to success? Who are the people involved? Why not try _____?

Okay, here are some categories (and some sample questions).... Get started!!

Politics/Society: (Should elections be federally funded? How does change happen, such as seatbelt laws, litter/smoking habits, gay marriage, legalizing marijuana?)

Psychology/Human Behavior/The Brain: (Can a computer ever replicate our brains? Which is better for survival, being strong or being nice? How do our cell phones shape our behavior?)

Science/Technology/Engineering/Math: (Is there such a thing as a broken heart? What will be the “tipping point” to acceptance of electric or self-driving cars?)

The Arts – Literature/Music/Film/Visual Arts: (How do documentary films like *Blackfish* shape our perspective and bring about change? Is graffiti/street art ethically acceptable? How hard is it to break into the music business? Should we alter the Academy Awards process? Is it really a problem if high school students choose not to read?)

Business/Economics: (Is NCAA sports a cartel that should consider paying players? How challenging is it to begin a start-up company? Is being your own boss a good idea?)

Education/College: (Is a “gap year” a wise move? How does my FHS diploma really stack up? Who really has it better in school, boys or girls? Is the term “Student Athlete” just a sham?)

Mix & Match: (Why haven’t we solved the organ donation challenge yet? Is “*Girls Who Code*” a good idea? Is SeaWorld’s decision about orcas based on science or money? What went wrong with the water in Flint, Michigan, and elsewhere? Will concussions destroy football?)

NOTE: For your project, you’ll be “recruiting” a mentor/advisor from “the real world” (i.e. anywhere on the planet). Start to compile a list of potential mentors by topic area, too.