On your own, you will be researching a topic that is contemporary, relevant, and hotly debated. You will choose your topic from the list provided for you. You will be required to complete some initial research until you determine your topic. Once you have selected a topic, you will complete a variety of tasks including research, note-taking, and creating an outline.

**Step 1: Getting Started**
You will choose your topic from the following list. Make sure you understand all that your topic encompasses—both supporting and opposing views, background information, etc.

- Obesity
- Media
- Cyberbullying
- School Shootings
- Beauty Pageants
- Doping in Sports
- Athletes’ Pay
- Head Injuries
- Divorce
- Employment in America

**Step 2: Research & Analysis**
You are required to have 5 resources on your topic:

- **Resources #1 & 2** must be an Op/Ed articles from the databases supporting your stance on the topic.
- **Resource #3** must be an Op/Ed article from the database that opposes your stance on the topic.
- **Resource #4** can be a supporting article, an opposing article, or a neutral article, and can come from the databases or a reliable outside source.
- **Resource #5** must be a visual source of some kind. This can come from the databases or a reliable outside source.

**Step 3: Notecards**
You will create at least 12 notecards using the powerpoint model on the Libguide. On these notecards, you will list relevant, direct quotes from your sources, and paraphrase them below.

**Step 4: Writing the Outline**
You will write create an outline on your topic using your notecards as a guide. This should be a full sentence outline and include your thesis statement, your three supporting reasons (with support from your sources), and the opposing views (with refutation).

**Step 5: Works Cited Page**
You will create a “Works Cited” page following the MLA style with help from the LMC.