

LUTHER COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

RESEARCH FAIR

THURSDAY, MAY 6TH, 2021

PRESENTATIONS BEGIN | 9 A.M. CST
AWARDS ANNOUNCED | 12 P.M. CST

The Research Fair will be held virtually.
Type or copy and paste the link below to view:
www.midlandu.edu/virtual-research-fair



Thank you for joining us for the Luther College of Arts & Sciences Research Fair. Through this event, we have an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the outstanding academic work of students. Most students presenting projects today have been diligently working on this research for a semester or more. For many, the research project serves as the capstone experience for their academic major requiring students to utilize a wide variety of skills they have developed during their time at Midland to demonstrate their expertise in their discipline. We are incredibly proud of the work they have done and hope you enjoy learning from our students as you explore the research fair today!

Dr. Jamie Simpson

Dean, Luther College of Arts and Sciences

Biology.

Alyssa Pearson, Dalton Staller, Melanie Letzring, Bailey Brown, *Effect of Essential Oils on Bacterial Growth*

Common bacterial species are often the source of illnesses in humans, and given the rise of antibiotic-resistant infections, it is imperative to discover new compounds that could be used as substitutes for existing therapeutics. This study examined the efficacy of using essential oils as antibiotic agents, with the objectives of determining their potency as disinfectants and if the activity is impacted by the concentration of the compound. Specifically, the experiment tested six essential oils against various bacterial species, chosen for their varied traits, that provided a sample representative of typical microbiomes.

Hannah Destefano, Cassidy Espeseth, Lauren Montgomery, and Sidney Wells, *Efficacy of Mask Usage on Preventing the Spread of Airborne Infections*

For the past year, masks have been a part of everyone's lives in an effort to protect themselves and others from COVID-19, as well as other droplet and airborne illnesses. We studied the efficiency of the filtration of differing mask types in an effort to show what will best protect oneself and others from the spread of pathogens. The goal of the study was to provide the community with the knowledge of what masking practices provide the most protection.

Meredith Grothmann, Jared Money, Katie Stelling, and Carissa Wilson, *Effect of Caffeine on Wisconsin Fast Plant Growth*

The use of fertilizer and pesticide products has caused negative effects on surrounding ecosystems and human consumption. We are studying the effects of caffeinated products on plants along with the combination of caffeinated products with fertilizers. Based on the results collected from this experiment, the information will provide safer options for farmers and other workers who use these dangerous chemical products.

Rachel Thigpen, Ilyssa West, Hunter Reinig, Elyse Splichal, *Effect of CBD Oil on Bacterial Growth*

Many harmful gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria are becoming resistant to the antibiotics once used against them. To continue to combat these bacteria, alternative options are being sought out. This experiment will observe the effects of CBD oil on six different types of bacteria, three gram-positive and three gram-negative, using the Kirby Bauer disk diffusion method.

Theo Blum, Henry Diers, Kloie Dublin, Kyle Rohrer, *Impact of Creatine and Nicotine on microbiome*

In the young adult population, there are growing numbers of people inhaling nicotine for its positive sensation effects via vaping products. In addition, many athletes in this same age group use creatine as a supplement for muscle growth. Our research project tested the effects of these compounds on the growth of various bacteria to shed light on how creatine and nicotine interact with parts of the human microbiome.

Criminal Justice

Jack Sebastian Barrios, *Trusting Police in America*

America has recently had many issues concerning our criminal justice system and police officers. The research that has been done looks beyond all the social media and news assumptions to directly question the American people with the fundamental question of "Do Americans trust police officers in the United States?".

Gage Harbaugh, *Substance Use and Health Effects*

This project discusses the effects substance use may have on an individual's mental and/or physical health. Substance use and health effects are topics of considerable importance because of the significance of an individual's health and the apparent substance use in today's society. This study was done to help understand the importance of substance use and the effect it may have on the user.

Cameron Garin Harrington, *The Impacts of Social Media During the Covid-19 Pandemic*

In this study the relationship between social media and Covid-19 will be discussed with the main question being what were in the impacts of social media during Covid-19? After looking at some of the key questions, it was found that the majority of participants thought that social media had a negative impact on society. On the other side though, many participants thought that social media helped them cope with the effects of Covid on a personal level.

Heather Johnson, *The Black Hole of Social Media*

This study is in regards to social media and its impact on mental health and is searching to find if there a correlation. Some of the key findings were that younger people are more likely to suffer from a mental health illness, as 27% of participants in the age range of 18-24 reported that they are currently suffering mentally. There were a lot of interesting findings in regards to this study that will be explained further within the presentation.

Jordan Reier, *Police and Use of Force*

Law enforcement has been under the microscope since the start of the decade. With the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and others, the public has become outraged with the use of force being used against individuals. This research focuses on the public's opinion about law enforcement and the use of force techniques that are being utilized.

Bryan Sledge, *Additional Education within High School and its Impact in College*

Additional education within high school is important to many students as they try to prepare themselves to take the leap into college. There are many forms of additional education available such as Advanced Placement, honors, and dual enrollment credits. This research discovers if additional education actually has an impact on a student's success within college.

Lily Whitford, *Student-Athletes and Academics*

This study analyzed whether participation in athletics had a positive or negative effect on students' grades using non-probability sampling. The sample consisted of 102 participants who were current student-athletes at Midland University as well as people from the general population on Facebook who are at least 18 years of age.

Logan Vie, *Drug Courts and Society's Perception of Them*

Drug courts have become more popular throughout the years as a way to handle drug-related crimes. The purpose of this study is to understand the public opinion of drug courts. It is also to understand if the public knows what the drug court system does and if they believe that they are a key to keeping drug-related crimes down.

Travis Voight, *Mental Health and Injuries with College Athletes*

This research topic focused on the need for mental health advocacy for student athletes after sustaining an injury. The sample that was used was college athletes and asking them questions about their mental health after sustaining an injury. The questions consisted of different situations and what impact their injury did to their mental health and were distributed on a survey throughout social media.

Communication Studies

Chelsea Bayer, *The Evolution of Nonprofits*

I have located an artifact that walks through a brief history on the evolution of nonprofit organizations. The rhetorical method I will be utilizing to analyze this artifact is a narrative approach. The artifact chosen will present a focus on the key events that have motivated the development of nonprofits and how people were affected by this move. This will be evident through the analysis of character, setting, etc.

Em Cunningham, *Escaping Urbanism in a Digital Space; Stardew Valley: An Ideological Criticism*

This study seeks to explore the rhetorical messages present within Stardew Valley. Utilizing an ideological criticism this study argues the game utilizes a distinctly Marxist's frame to promote a socialist utopia and vision.

Denise Dunham, *The Worst of Times*

By using both scientific and artistic methods, predicting how humanity and nature might end up in 100 years, specifically on the worst possible outcomes. The particular results are about the conflicts that currently plague our society today and how they might develop in the worst case scenarios.

Megan Jarvis, *Superheroes How Super are they Really?*

I would like to analyze the evolution of superheroes, and whether or not they are actually accomplishing anything good. I will be using the Fantasy Theme Analysis, and I expect to learn that as the complexity of superheroes have gone up, so has the negative results of their actions.

Cooper Leriger, *Hearts of Iron 4 - A Narrative Analysis*

My artifact is the video game Hearts of Iron 4. I used a narrative analysis, and I expect to find a more detailed view of this game.

Hannah Triske, *A Rhetorical Analysis on Cancel Culture*

I will be doing a Rhetorical Analysis on Cancel Culture, and some of the more popular cases including The Bachelor and Political Cases. I will be using Cluster Criticism to find the most common phrases, and words to find the overarching message of Cancel Culture. I expect to find similar results, and key words that relate back to both current political and social topics.

Lauren Tunnicliff, *Gotta Catch Em' All: An Ideological Criticism of Pokémon Games*

This will be an ideological criticism of Pokémon games through the 25 years of their existence. Pokémon games create the ideal adventure for people of every age and I expect to find evidence of recurring ideals of happy adventures.

History.

Samuel Braun, *2121: The Year in Which Technology Rules the World*

100 years into the future the world will look like a different place than it does today. With the advancements in technology and science, our world will look different in the ways that we communicate, travel, and live our daily lives. Through a series of articles and relating predictions, I will be explaining the ways that our society will change and give a look into the future.

Samuel Braun, *John Adams: A Founding Fathers Outspoken Push For Liberty*

John Adams was a man of many words, who fought for change within the colonies and a chance to break away from the British rule. Through primary and secondary sources, I look into the impacts made by Adams in the creation of the United States, from the Boston Massacre to the Louisiana Purchase. These events go into the ways John Adams influenced a push for liberty and change in the United States.

Samuel Braun, *World War II: Effects on a Global Scale*

World War II was a war that changed the landscape of our world forever. It introduced a weapon of mass destruction and caused much of the world to crumble. Through many different sources, I will be talking about the effects that the war had caused not only the US, but countries around the world from an economic stand point, and through foreign policy. Through these I will be going through, the primary and secondary sources of the topic to explain the effects on the economics post War.

Hamish Campbell Antonenko, *How Science Fiction Can Develop Into Reality*

A multitude of ideas from past works of science fiction have become a reality for us in the twenty-first century. The idea of looking to the future using ideas from the present, can sometimes lead to future innovation. Looking at Phillip K. Dick's *The Defenders*, Jack London's *Unparalleled Invasion*, and H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*, these past works of science fiction have had elements become reality, whether they are subtle resemblances or accurate predictions. Then further, I will see what current ideas such as space travel, extraterrestrials, and ideas of the future, could show us what lies in the future.

Hamish Campbell Antonenko, *Woodrow Wilson: America First During the Great War*

Looking at the life and career of Woodrow Wilson, I specifically focus on his time as the U.S. President during the First World War, his ideology of peace before war, and priority of "America First" during this unstable time in history. I will further examine the political climate during his wartime presidency, and illustrate how he was given no choice but to break his ideals of peace, and join the First World War. I will also show how Wilson helped bring the United States to the front of the world stage, growing the nations sphere of influence throughout the world in the early part of the twentieth century.

Molly Carstens, *Advancements and Stepping Back in the Future*

This essay will be about how some things will probably advance in the future. Along with these advancements though, comes some things that will take the opposite direction. Global warming will be one of my topics for this essay, along with the advancement of technology. While advancements in technology is a good thing, it could also lead to being lazy in the future. Whatever happens in technology, we should not let it take over our lives. I will use the newspaper articles I've found along with two sources taken from our readings in class to tie these all together.

Mason Cirone, *A New Direction Based on Science Fiction*

For far too long man has suffered at the own hands of itself. Wars, genocides, and negative technology advancement have always been depicted in lots of fiction stories and it never ends well. "A New Direction" is all about changing the course we are on as humans because like in these stories, if we don't, it ends badly.

Ally Conybear, *When Will We Learn That History Repeats Itself?*

For this essay I will be taking a look into two different types of prediction techniques that we have discussed in class throughout the semester. These two prediction techniques are politicized stories as well as the imagination of artists. I will also be looking at three issues that I predict will captivate society in 2121. Illness, racism, and politics are three things that I predict will captivate society in the year 2121. These three things still consume society and are constantly present and I believe that history will repeat itself and illness, racism, and politics will consume society even in 2121.

Jacob Cragg, *Society is Heading in The Right Direction, Or is It?*

Society in the future will be a sight that everyone will want to see no matter what race, color, or ethnicity you are. Predictions and creations of the future have always been around our world and our minds. We have different ways to predict the future but some different ways of prediction work more than others. Predicting the future is always something that is not always looked onto but when someone is right they make history.

Derek Dishman, *The National Parks Through the Eyes of Theodore Roosevelt*

The conservation legacy of Theodore Roosevelt is a legacy that still impacts our lives, and this project will explore and examine his efforts in the late 19th century and early 20th century and how they shaped the vast national parks and forests we know today. Roosevelt's upbringing and life of passion for conservation will be examined and explored to tell the story of how his actions in elected office, and in the later part of his life led to the creation and legends of this country's largest and most famous national parks.

Riley Evans, *George Washington: Great Man or Man Destined for Greatness*

George Washington is the most beloved United States President who is responsible for many great achievements in the early days of the US. While Americans consider Washington is a legendary figure today, he was once just a normal man but always seemed as though he was a cut above those around him. Throughout his life Washington always appeared to be destined for great things, no matter what path he would decide to chose.

Benjamin Francis, *Conflict & Technological Development: The Destruction of Our Imminent Future*

This piece and project shall discuss the idea that in the near future our world will see a historical demise as a result of an increasingly conflicting population, accompanied by the rapid growth of technology - whether that be in the field of artificial intelligence, nuclear weaponry or even surveillance and cameras. With this in mind, historical references shall be made to popular science fiction novels of the 20th century, both of which have a strong sense of realism to them; 'The Defenders' by Phillip K. Dick and 'The Unparalleled Invasion' by Jack London. Newspaper articles from times preceding ours shall also be applied, presenting how not only is the future at risk due to technological development, but also how our past already succumbed to such circumstances.

Peyton Garbers, *Future Political, Economic, and Moral Issues of Technological Advancement*

While technology has benefitted humanity as a whole with innovations in medicine, social networking, and environmental conservation, technological progress can also lead to unforeseen consequences that I predict will be bigger problems in the future. The development of new technologies has created numerous ethical, moral, political, and economic issues over the last two decades already and will continue to do so in the future. Through the predictive analysis of science fiction novelists, scientists, and scientific inventors, I illuminate the problems that will likely occur in the future as a result of technological advancements.

Peyton Garbers, *Thomas Jefferson: The Father of American Republicanism*

Thomas Jefferson left a lasting impact on the US and the world that is still felt in contemporary society. Through the analysis of primary and secondary resources, and Jefferson's childhood intellectual pursuits, Jefferson is illuminated as a pillar of American democracy and republicanism that sought to serve the people and uphold the Constitution above all else. With his role as one of America's founders and earlier Presidents, Jefferson cultivated new ideas and concepts through his actions that laid the foundation of modern US political, legal, foreign, and economic policy.

Melissa Geis, *From CEO to Criminal: A Study on White Collar Crime*

My research project will cover the history of White Collar Crime in the United States. I plan to focus on the origin of white collar crime, and why the problem has not improved. Specifically, the laws and regulations surrounding white collar crime.

Melissa Geis, *New Sources of Future Prediction*

My project will analyze the shift between varying sources used to predict the future. Specifically, the shift from religious prophecies to the shift in scientific data. I will utilize sources about Greek oracles, the scriptures, and modern day sources predicting things such as the climate and population.

Melissa Geis, *White Collar Crime and the Lack of Legal Punishment*

My thesis will focus on white collar crimes and how the laws surrounding the issue are ineffective. Most of the laws that exist simply give fines for these crimes. Many people are careful in how they handle white collar crime because they do not want to punish the wrong people or the entire corporation for the work of one individual. It is important to address white collar crime now to help prevent future incidents from occurring as technology progresses.

Matthew Hollinger, *Historiographic Analysis of Cognitive Psychology*

In the last 20 years of media, the public has been made aware of the power held in cognitive psychology. Television shows such as *Criminal Minds*, *Hannibal Lecter*, and eye-catching stories have brought cognitive psychology to the doorstep of common people. Historiographic analysis will move from psychology's beginnings into cutting-edge techniques in the STEM field. With a primary focus upon the last 60 years of psychological discovery, I will convey the strides this field has made to become a prominent form of mental health research and care.

Jonah Housh, *W.E.B. Du Bois: Racial Injustice, Jim Crow, and the Refusal to be Silenced*

While federal slavery ended in 1865, the early twentieth century was a time of great inequality within the "Land of the Free". African Americans were still shackled by the weight of an oppressive governmental system. They desired equality but were told they had no place at the table of equality. Even some of the most progressive political African Americans, such as Booker T. Washington, proposed a gradual shift to equality. Throughout his life, W.E.B. Du Bois refused this notion of gradualism. From the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to his dying day in Ghana, W.E.B. Du Bois never stopped speaking up for the silenced.

Marvin Kappes, *How Will Technology Change Our World In The Future*

A little bit over 100 years ago it wasn't even possible to conquer the sky and now we stepped a foot on the Moon, we have a space station orbit the earth and we have sent five rovers to Mars. Our technology develops faster than ever imagined. How will the conquest of Mars look like and is it even possible? Will the colonization of Mars cause any issues in today's society, and what risks are involved? These are questions that have to be answered to successfully colonize other planets.

Mylie Ketterson, *The Future of Politics in the Untied States*

Politics in the United States has been going downhill for years now. People have so many opinions that no one is every right anymore. The future doesn't seem too bright unless a change is made and people make peace with the different views that people have. It's okay to have your own thoughts and views and that's what people need to come to terms with.

Peyton Koch, *2121: A Ride Back to the Future*

The future is a very difficult thing to predict because of how fast our society is changing. My project covers the ongoing issues as well as the new issues of today's world, and how the reliance on science and technology will affect the future. Using prediction techniques and source materials, I will examine how these aspects of our society will impact the future for better or worse.

Peyton Koch, *Abraham Lincoln: His Childhood, Presidency, and Legacy of the 16th President of the United States*

This project covers the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. Many consider him to be one of the greatest presidents in American history for actions he took during his presidency to abolish slavery. I will look into his childhood, and how he was raised, his ascent up the political ladder, his tenure as president, and his legacy in modern society. My project examines his life, however it delves into why he took the actions he took during his presidency based on his childhood and how he was raised.

Yannick Pohland, *Predicting the Problems of 2121*

Technological development will result into a lack of privacy and a general change in human behavior. The process of intelligent machines taking over human jobs will develop as seen in "The Defenders" and people's mental health in the future society will suffer. Diseases similar to the coronavirus will emerge many more times, but huge investments into scientific facilities and emergency plans will prevent lockdowns. There will be many more wars because of the desire to expand, but safety agreements will prevent a scenario that is seen in "Unparalleled Invasion" although many people and even countries will die.

Hayden Robbins, *What Does The Future Hold?*

Humans have been trying to predict the future for many years. There are several ways people have tried to predict what is to come. Two of the most popular prediction methods are fiction and religion.

John Royer, *Predicting the Future and The Point of No Return*

Over the course of history, the future has been predicted through the wonders of science fiction. The technology from science fiction has evolved into fiction because of how advanced it has become. With the creation of the cell phone, the internet and nuclear weapons our world could be changing for the worse as we know it. Advancements in technology are very beneficial to society, but could be disastrous for future generations.

Edwin Schweikert, *The Future: More of the Same*

Throughout history, as the world has evolved, people have always looked to the future to see what it holds. How will this change in the future, if at all? Following current and historical trends, 100 years from now, it is likely people will continue to look to science and business leaders as sources for future predictions. Furthermore, it is likely people will still have a tendency to focus on many of the same big issues as today, such as technology, politics, and war, both in their day-to-day lives and in future predictions.

Dalton Wilcox, *The Future from the Past*

The future is influenced by the past. We can look into the past to help predict what will happen more accurately in the future. By looking into the past and determine where humanity has come from socially and technologically it will help us see what track the world is on and what the possibility for the future is.

Zach Vincent, *The Donkey and the Elephant*

There has always been a large split between the Republican and Democratic Party, the argument between candidates and morals of each party. The split in society within the parties has made the world havoc and using a religion stand point to show why this will become a larger and larger issue that might create another split within the nation.

Honors

Madison Andersen, *The Problem of Escalating Student Debts*

The crisis of student debt has increasingly been a problem in our society for the past two decades. There are two components to the crisis we are facing today: how did we get to this point and how to get out of it? Student debt and funding of colleges has spiraled uncontrollably and researchers need to take a step back and realize what went wrong. This research focuses on how our country got to where we are and demonstrates how proposed plans could help America get back on track.

Jade Andresen, *Pandemic Driven Seclusion Focuses Attention on Mental Health*

We have all experienced the side effects of going through a pandemic due to Covid-19 which started in March of 2020 and currently still are. Some of us have had a hard time with how the pandemic has affected our mental health, and the actual personal stories of many people are unheard and need to be told. To take a deeper look into this topic, a recently published book, multiple articles, and first-hand accounts were analyzed and applied. From this research I have learned that many people have similarities in their pandemic experiences that connects us all like feeling separated from the world, missing those that they cannot interact with, and experiencing deep internal reflection as they have more time to be by themselves, but that we all have had our own unique ways of how it has affected us. These unique experiences need to be shared and learned from so that we can be better prepared if there happens to be another pandemic and to also help us all heal after experiencing this lonely seclusion and realize that we are not as alone as it may seem.

Emma Barnes, *What role does religion play in politics today?*

As envisioned by the founding fathers, religion was to be left out of politics; however, in contemporary America, religion plays a big role in politics. The relationship between religion and politics has changed considerably over the last 300+ years. Understanding how and why the role of religion has become so divisive within politics requires an examination of the specific ways in which the use of religion has changed and the impact of these changes on American political discourse.

Carrie Beethe, *Access to Mental Health Treatment Since COVID-19*

The COVID-19 pandemic has skyrocketed the number of people needing mental health treatment. Unfortunately, mental health services remain insufficient. The demand for mental health services- six in ten adults seek help- means the lack of treatment options leaves many Americans without care. I will discuss how lack of awareness, long waits, high cost, and other factors contribute to people not getting treated for their mental health disorders.

Peter Chavez, *Is Free Speech Dead?*

The idea of free speech has been a cornerstone in America since its birth. The Founding Fathers thought that the idea of free speech was so important they made it a part of the very first amendment to the Constitution. Today though, the idea of free speech has come under attack. My research seeks to explain how free speech is being slowly eradicated from the country and to answer the question: "Is free speech in America dead?"

Emma Christianson, *A Trafficked World*

Many people try to ignore the issues of human trafficking, but it remains a pressing global problem. That is why this paper will focus on human trafficking around the world, to bring awareness to something that not many people want to talk about. While analyzing one of my book sources, *Human Trafficking: A Global Perspective* by Louise Shelley it brought more awareness to my eyes and something that I would like to share with many others so they know the truth. One of the first steps in addressing the human trafficking is understanding how and why people are trafficked as well as steps we can take to end this terrible practice.

Katelyn Coon, *Media Manipulation: The Uses and Abuses of the Media in Politics*

In today's society, media, especially social media, is on the rise, and it may have more of an impact on us than we know. Media not only draws us in, but influences and can sometimes even control how we think and feel, specifically in politics. Most of us can probably see some of the effects of social media in our lives and in the world around us, but how much can the media actually influence us, and how do media channels go about this?

Ryan Garcia, *Gun Control: Protecting Citizens or Eliminating Rights?*

Guns in the United States have been a hot topic of debate in recent years due the increase of mass shootings. Gun violence can be defined as the purposeful use of a firearm to harm an individual or a group of individuals. It has been present during all 244 years of the United States. It wasn't up until the 1999 Columbine High School massacre that advocates began their work on gun control. The purpose of this research paper is to analyze multiple books, polls taken by many certified websites, and both political parties' views on the topic of gun control. We will dive into what each side has to say about it, why gun violence brings up a controversial debate, and the want for gun control as well as the loosening of it.

Ryan Garcia, *Gun Control: Protecting Citizens or Eliminating Rights?*

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Nicole Gattenby, *The History of the Death Penalty Within the United States*

People share a wide range of views on the morality and ethicality of capital punishment. Due to this variety, many states have branched off from the federal government in legal terms by abolishing, or placing more restrictions on, the death penalty. This study will trace the history of capital punishment, including the reason for its creation and monumental changes to its application. In the end, this will look at some of the arguments behind the preservation of as well as the abolishment of this penalty within the United States.

Faith Guyer, *The Transgender Athlete: A New League*

The 21st Century has proven to be a time of inclusion and acceptance when it comes to gender neutrality, and recent changes in sports rules have raised questions of how to continue to stand up for gains in women's sports. Where should the line be drawn? Sport competition should be available to everyone. Navigating the path of inclusiveness while protecting established Title IX rights should include new leagues of transgender athletes.

Jackson Jaeger, *Sex Trafficking: Modern Day Slavery*

The reason I am doing this research is because it is a very serious topic, cruel, and inhumane practice that needs to be stopped.. I will talk about how normal sex trafficking is in today's society. I will also talk about how in each country in the world it is more common than we think. I want at the end of this paper to motivate people to take action on helping fight against sex trafficking.

Emma Johnson, *Where Nonprofit Organizations and Politics Meet*

My life has been significantly impacted by a nonprofit organization. As a result, I am determined to understand the relationship between nonprofit organizations and public policy. Everything from lobbying and advocacy, to the people within nonprofit leadership, impacts the effectiveness and future of nonprofit organizations. Thus, it is important to understand how to ensure these factors are aligned so that groups can continue to improve and work productively in the contemporary political environment.

Konner Kiesel, *Converting the Conversation: How Policy Can Help Combat Conversion Therapy*

Conversion therapy is the practice of using religious or psychological means to alter one's gender identity or sexual orientation, and has been a contentious topic of debate in American politics. The effects of conversion therapy on the individual receiving it are great enough that the topic needs to transcend partisanship and political action must be taken to terminate this practice. By analyzing the harmful effects conversion therapy has and looking into proposed and enacted policy against it, one will get a better understanding of why the practice should be outlawed.

Natalie Iacovetto, *Proud to be an American: Understanding the Importance of citizenship in the United States*

Citizenship means a lot to a lot of different people, It can be something to be proud of and for most it is, but for others, it can cause a lot of problems. It was a big thing in the past few elections within the United States. I am going to work through what it means to be a citizen and why citizenship is important as well as the difficulties of becoming a citizen. I am going to talk about what Americans take for granted being born here and what some people do to ensure citizenship for their children, this includes both illegal and legal immigrants.

Christian McCafferty, *The Bill Comes Due: Tax Policy during the Pandemic*

COVID-19 has affected everyone worldwide and has made the year very difficult for all. When stimulus checks were awarded it gave people hope amidst the pandemic. However, one question still remains on how this check will affect our taxes and the tax brackets. Join me as I explore and analyze research on how the COVID pandemic has affected taxes for both low, middle, and high class earners. Through the help of many journal articles, Accounting at War by Warwick Funnell and Michele Chwastiak, and The Color of Law by Richard Rothstein we can get the final answer on how stimulus checks will affect the tax brackets and amount of taxes due on next year's tax cycle.

Thomas McCoppin, *Student Loan Crisis: The Second Debt Bubble*

The total outstanding student loans has been a growing bubble of debt in the U.S. for the past few decades. We can already see that, as this bubble grows and affects more people, it has worsening effects on the economy at large, such as reduced home ownership. Some analysts also worry that it could 'pop', resulting in another economic recession. Resolving this dilemma requires scrutiny, is loan forgiveness really the way to resolving this, or are there other, more nuanced solutions that result in a lessened burden and reduced bubble?

Sarah Murray, *Divided States of America*

For a country built on the idea of unity and togetherness, how did we become so polarized? Through analyzing multiple books, listening to current third-party leaders, and reading historical speeches, this paper investigates how the two-party system is failing the United States. From the discouragement of third-parties to the warnings from the Founding Fathers, it is clear that we are no longer a nation united, but rather, a nation divided.

Lance Myers, *Pricey Politics*

Why are Americans content with allowing large corporations and rich families the ability to control who is put into power in American politics? Part of the reason for this is because most people do not understand campaign donations and the impact that these families and corporations have on politics. These contributions to campaigns are drastically important in who is allowed to run for certain government positions because of the strict monetary requirements.

Without the proper funding, certain candidates, regardless of popularity, drop out of the political race because of the massive amount of money other candidates receive. This allows for the rich families and large corporations to control who has the power and who stays in power.

Kaitlyn Polodna, *Racism and Injustice in Environmental Policy*

Discussions of environmental policy and climate change have become increasingly relevant in our world today due to the rise of technology and the irresponsible use of resources. Environmental hazards, such as toxic waste facilities and air pollution, are disproportionately distributed in poor communities and communities of color. These hazards are not only damaging the planet, but also causing health problems in many of these areas. Ultimately, addressing this issue requires understanding how the government inappropriately distributes environmental hazards and why it fails to pass effective environmental policies.

Edwin Schweikert, *Navigating Through Rising Waters: Climate Change and the United States Energy Sector*

Whether we like it or not, climate change and the clean energy revolution are upon us. As we move into and begin to navigate through this new reality, many find themselves asking, "Where do we go from here? How do we do it?" Indeed, it is a perplexing question: How do we successfully implement changes to our energy policy that can help curb the negative effects of climate change,

without creating economic or energy-supply problems? Join me as I seek to answer this question through a deep analysis of the varied perspectives which seek to shape debate surrounding these issues.

Sarah Showalter, *Human Trafficking: The Unknown Slavery*

Many people know that human trafficking is a problem, but people don't know the extent. This paper will go into depth about the people who get trafficked and what they are used for. It will explain how the business of human trafficking operates. It will list several possible solutions to human trafficking and the changes needed to save lives.

Colby Tichota, *Dissecting and Understanding the Stimulus Package*

It was big news when the two trillion dollar stimulus package was announced. The government had large plans to help the United States and the people manage the unknowns of the COVID-19 virus, which allocated fourteen hundred dollars into the pockets of each American citizen that qualified for the stimulus payment. Now, let's expand and dissect how the government planned to allocate the two trillion dollars stimulus package.

Lucas Weyrich, *Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to Classify Political Identity in Reddit Posts*

The prevalence of artificial intelligence a global phenomenon that is steadily increasing all over different sectors and industries. A newer type of AI called deep learning is the next frontier, based on the brain's neural network. Deep learning—also called artificial neural networks—achieve great scores in tasks such as classification and language processing. Deep learning can also be used to make social media a better place, for which I built a deep learning model that is able to accurately classify political viewpoints of Reddit posts and comments in order to contribute to the increased transparency and decrease the threat of confirmation bias in social media.

Psychology.

Rachel Bentz, *Mental Health Impact with COVID-19 in Adults*

This study has examined the relationship between COVID-19 its impact with mental health of adults through virtual learning and working and isolation. The purpose of this research is to conclude how the pandemic has changed everyday life and how adults have responded and adapted to these challenges in a mental health aspect.

Holly Ciberay, *Being in College Does Not Affect Alcohol Consumption*

This study explored alcohol consumption among college students and non-college aged individuals. This study examined if attending college has an impact on alcohol consumption.

Kelly Ford, *COVID-19 and the Impact on Mental Health*

This study looks at the impact COVID-19 had on individual's mental health. By surveying people on their mental health prior and during the pandemic, this study determines if mental health was impacted negatively during COVID-19.

Jordan Greenwood, *The Impact of Visual Appeal on Decision Making*

This study looked at the impact of visual appeal on decision making, using a variety of different cereal boxes. The intent of this study was to determine if the visual qualities of a box had an impact on the consumers thoughts of price, nutritional value, and satisfaction.

Abby Haworth, *How Does Sleep Affect the Way College Students Perform in School*

This study examined the relationship between sleep and academic performance by looking at other contributing factors. Results showed there was a significant relationship between the levels of stress and academic performance, and staying up late to finish homework and academic performance.

Matthew Hollinger, *Examining Averages to Extremes in Skydivers and the General Population*

This study examines the correlation in skydivers and diagnostic indicators of Behavioral Undercontrol. By juxtaposing to population licensed to skydive with the general population, data will indicate likelihood for these cognitive/behavioral markers.

Darius "BJ" Johnson, *Relationships to High School vs. College Coaches*

My research study compares the positive impact a student athlete receives from their High School and College Coaches. My research has found that High School Coaches tend to have more of a positive impact on athletes than College Coaches.

Heather Johnson, *Social Perceptions of the Male Affect During A Pandemic*

The purpose of this study is to examine the social perceptions of how men express their feelings, especially during the pandemic. This study aims to look at why there is a stigma against men expressing their feelings and identify possible causes. This study revealed that men do in fact feel like they can express their feelings during the pandemic and that most participants feel like they can reach out for help if needed.

Marvin Kappes, *Possible Influences of Aggression. How Video-games, Social Environment and Bullying Can Impact Aggression.*

This study examined how video games, parental influences, and bullying might affect aggression. This results in a positive correlation between aggression and bullying and parental influences. This research detect a positive correlation between violent video games and aggressive thoughts but no correlation was found between violent video games and aggressive behavior.

Genevieve Kroese, *Adverse Childhood Events*

Adverse childhood experiences related to anxiety and depression in young adulthood. Participants who have experienced some type of adverse event in childhood were more likely to have anxiety or depression especially in their young adult years. It was also revealed that anxiety and depression have a strong relationship to each other.

Branden Mills, *How Attending College Can Influence Depression and Anxiety Symptoms*

The purpose of this study is to examine if depressive or anxiety like symptoms occur during years of college and even graduate school. The three major components of this research project will include why students feel this way? How often do students of different genders experience depressive/anxiety symptoms? And how can students deal with it and or help this issue?

Daniel Olson, *Academic Delay of Gratification and Associated Factors*

The purpose of this study is to analyze a person's ability to delay gratification in school and what external factors influence that person's decision (Family, money, school locations, etc.). This will be comparing a person's overall ability to delay in gratification in everyday life, and how these external affects may influence their decision to attend college.

Jordan Pebeck, *Effects of Divorce on Children Into Adulthood*

This study examined how divorce can impact the lives of children well into their adult lives. This aims to try and find the specific reasonings of what negative and neutral variables affect the mindset of the child into their adulthood.

Joseph Pena, *Academic stress by varying major*

This research study examined the relationship between students major and academic stress levels. These relationships this study tried to determine was if STEM majors had more stress than the average student, if pre-med and pre-law students had the highest stress levels, and if all college students showed elevated stress levels.

Flora Price, *Adverse Childhood Experiences & Mental Illness*

This research examine the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and mental illness. The relationships we will be analyzing are the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and mental illness, and levels of education.

Rhiannon Tallent, *Early Memories and How They Influence the Expression of Emotions in Adulthood*

This purpose of this study is to look at how early exposure to caregiver emotional expression influences emotional expression in adulthood. One of the major findings was that there was a relationship between how primary caregivers express emotions and how participants express their emotions.

Haley Wolford, *Early Exposure to Domestic Violence and Its Effects on the Development of Problem Behaviors in Young Adults*

This study examines the relationship between early exposure to domestic violence and its effects on the development of problem behaviors in young adults. The results show that there is a relationship when exposed at an early age and the development of problems in all three categories: social, emotional, and behavioral.

Travis Voight, *COVID-19 Lockdown and the Mental Health Effects on Collegiate Athletes Mental Health*

This study is identifying the effects to college athletes during the pandemic. The analyses from the survey will be looking at the effects of isolation on the athletes mental health.

Sociology

Morgan Benjamin, *The Belief of False News on Social Media*

This study looks at factors that impact one's belief in false news. One of the major key findings in this study was that a majority of participants felt like Facebook was a major contributor to the spreading of false news. More key findings and information will be explained in the presentation.

Holly N. Ciberay, *Perceptions of the Death Penalty*

Talking about the death penalty can be controversial, yet it is a topic that needs to be addressed. Perceptions on the death penalty is the main focus for this research, but other aspects were also examined such as if the participants understand what the 8th amendment is and whether they believe that the death penalty is cruel and unusual.

Darrin Gentry Jr., *Would you ever adopt?*

For this project, my main focus is focusing on how people feel about adoption and whether they would ever adopt. My research also looks at the different things that people believe related to adoption, such as the race and age of the child.

Robin Hatcher, *Ethical Challenges and Perceptions Regarding Physician-Assisted Suicide*

Research was conducted in order to further investigate and understand physician-assisted suicide as an ethically challenging topic. One of the main focuses was on the relationship between ethical beliefs and the demographics tied to them.

Justin Pedersen, *Alcohol Use and Academic Performance*

Past research has found a connection between alcohol consumption and college students' academic performance. This study expands on that research to examine the effects of alcohol consumption on a college students' academic performance in terms of their GPA and test performance.

Cody Ritterbush, *Alcohol Use and its Effect on Class Attendance*

Alcohol use is something that has become more prevalent and more acceptable among college students across the country. This is problematic because there can be many negative consequences associated with the consumption of alcohol. This research study was conducted in order to understand how alcohol can affect a college students' attendance in the classroom as the college students' presence in the classroom is crucial.

Keenan Smith, *The Role of Discrimination: Names, Jobs and Interviews*

Names are unique to the people that receive them and the people that give them. However, with the rise in technology employers are asking people to submit their resume's and all other pre-paperwork online; where the first thing they see and begin judging is your name. The main focus of this research is to look at whether someone's name can cause them to be discriminated in the workforce.

Matthew Wickwire, *Does Playing College Sports Affect the Athlete's Income While in College?*

There has been a well known discussion about college athletes and whether or not they have enough time while doing their sport to also earn an income. This study takes a deeper look into the amount of hours these athletes are putting into their sport, academics, and possible jobs if they are employed, and if they have enough time for a steady income.