**Persuasive Writing:**

Your main project for the semester is to write a **position paper**. Specific paper requirements will be discussed at a later point. However, the paper will include research and is to be fully documented. Your first task is to select a **controversial topic**. The best topics are those where both sides can be equally argued.

Some suggested topics are:

- $15 minimum wage for fast food workers
- Women in direct combat roles
- Women and Equal Pay
- Recreational marijuana in New York State
- Obamacare
- Paid Family Leave
- Gun legislation—New York State Safe Act
- Armed officers in public schools
- Home Schooling
- Should cigarette and alcohol advertising be banned?
- Health and sports drinks
- Artificial additives in foods
- Food safety standards
- Abortion and the use of fetal tissue
- Artificial turf in children’s sports
- The treatment of concussions
- Do athletes serve as role models?
- Childhood/adolescent obesity/weight loss surgery
- The Death Penalty
- Should juveniles who commit violent crimes be tried as adults?
- Animal Experimentation
- Animals in captivity—should zoos be abolished?
- Do computer games promote violence?
- Should restrictions be placed on immigration?
- Should English be the official language?
- Should the school day and/or school year be extended?
- Should school start later?
- Should there be a maximum driving age?
- Should military or community service be required for all young people?
- Should violent criminals be given longer sentences?
- Is the sex offender registry fair?
- Should there be a better diagnosis and treatment of mental health issues?
- Are cell phones dangerous to health?
- Transgender rights
- Online Gaming sites and gambling addiction
- Cyber Bullying—Should Parents Be Held Responsible?