**Sophomore Capstone Project 2015**

*“ The difference between the man who just cuts lawns and a real gardener is in the touching, he said. The lawn-cutter might just as well not have been there at all; the gardener will be there a lifetime.”- Fahrenheit 451*

As a culminating exercise to your English II experience, you are now tasked with a research-based assignment: to identify a problem within our society, and decide how to change it. As Montag reaches self-actualization at the end of Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*, he understands the importance of going back into the world to fix the wrong and cultivate what is good in our society. In groups of your choosing, you will present a five to six page proposal identifying a problem within society, deciding how to fix the problem, and justifying why your specific issue is the most important to tackle at this current time in history. Your group must also create a project defense presentation, outlining your issue or cause, and presenting the findings of your work. Your group, much like Montag and his group at the end of the novel, has the chance to go back into society and fix a flaw in our way of life…therefore, choose wisely.

**Topic Options**

You may choose a topic that is either **national or global**, that fits within the following domains (examples are provided):

**Nature and Environment**

* Food shortage
* Climate Change
* Food Availability
* Water shortage/water access
* Food Quality

**Science and Technology**

* Infrastructure
* Energy
* Transportation
* Information Access
* Privacy

**Government**

* Power
* Individual Rights
* Censorship
* Democracy/Structure

**Religion/Religious Freedom**

* Religious Persecution
* Religion and the Role of Women: Persecution or Leadership

**Education**

* Censorship
* Equality in Education
* Standardized Testing

**Human Nature**

* Human Capacity for Evil
* War and Conflict
* Community

**Ethics**

* Racism
* Intolerance
* Humans and Animals
* Torture

**Specifications:**

**You must print and annotate all of the sources used in your paper. These are to be turned in with your completed paper.**

**The Paper**

5-6 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman, MLA

Paper must include the following sections:

 Introduction

 Identify/define the problem or issue (provide a context)

 History of the problem/issue

 Current state of the problem

 What is currently being done?

 What needs to happen next, and why?

 Why this issue is the most important one to fix (argument)?

 Conclusion

 Works cited page

**The Presentation**

Ten-fifteen minutes in length

 Multimedia of some kind (Haiku deck, PowerPoint, iMovie, etc.).

 Required participation of every group member

 Presentation must address the important aspects of your research