What breaks your heart? Or makes your blood boil?

For our spring research unit, you will be researching a controversial topic that you feel passionately about. If you aren’t sure what topic you want to choose yet, you can use the first research day to investigate further. At the end of that day, you must clear your chosen topic with me. (However, only a certain amount of people per class can choose the same side of a topic.)

 **Research EO = 50 points
Requirements:
Sources**
You must find 6+ total sources. 3+ must be found using the destiny databases. The rest may be found using an online search engine, but you will have to fill out a source credibility paper to accompany each source. Your sources should be printed, with key information you plan on using in your outline/paper highlighted.
 **Works Cited**You will create a works cited page using noodletools that contains all source information in MLA style.

**Outline**You will assemble your information into an outline that follows MLA format that includes your attention getter, thesis, topic sentences for each paragraph, as well as the key facts of research (and their source) you plan to include to support your ideas.

 **Persuasive Paper EO = 100 points
Paper**Using the outline as a guide, you will write a persuasive paper convincing your audience to hold the same position as you on your controversial topic. A few paragraphs will present your topic and your opinion, at least 1 paragraph will address opposing viewpoints and how you counter their arguments, and 1+ paragraphs will explain what we can *do* to help this cause. This paper will probably be between 3-5 pages in length. You will use MLA style for the paper (1” margins, double spaced, header, proper in-text citations, 12 pt font…). *More specific guidelines and lessons to come.* **Speech EO = 100 points
Action**

Extra credit is available for *doing* something to support or to help the cause you are researching. This could take many forms, and I would love to help you research or brainstorm. Some examples: donate your time or resources to a local food pantry to help solve hunger or poverty. Write a blog post and share it on twitter or Facebook for whatever topic you chose. Volunteer at a crisis pregnancy center or pray outside an abortion clinic. Create a social media campaign to promote or spread awareness about your topic. Create posters or signs to hang up around school.

**Speech**After researching and writing a persuasive paper on your controversial topic, you will present your findings and argument to the class. You will be graded using the typical speech rubric that includes the categories: content, organization, vocal delivery, and presentation. Your speech should be 3-4 minutes in length. If you completed some sort of “action,” it would be appropriate to explain your experience. Your speech should convince the audience to take your position on the topic and then finish by urging us to action with some simple steps to help resolve the issue.. The goal is to be persuasive!

**Visual Aid**As part of your speech, you will create some sort of visual aid: powerpoint, prezi, tri-fold, poster, diagram … You will have some class time to prepare this visual aid.