During the second half of the semester, we will begin working on a larger project, which will require you to choose a topic, research it, and eventually write an argument.

For **Friday, March 16**, I am asking you to have a few **possible topics** in mind. Note that this is different from the topic you are writing on for the argument paper assignment, which you are still working on.

Topic ideas can be brought to class (typed or handwritten), emailed to me, or put in the dropbox in D2L. This counts as an ungraded assignment.

You may work on any topic you choose as long as it will allow you to make an **argument**. This does not have to mean a highly controversial topic, but it does mean that thoughtful, informed people could disagree about it. There are many potentially good topics in the readings in our textbook, and some additional examples of topics are listed below. Feel free to choose one of these, or come up with something that reflects your own interests.

Your initial statement of your topic may be large or small; be prepared to broaden, narrow, or shift your topic as you explore it and learn more about the ideas and information that are available to base your conclusions on. The resulting argument paper should be about 7 to 10 pages long (or about 2000-3000 words).

**Example topics**

Should “fracking” be continued, expanded, or halted?

What are the chief causes of the political divide in America today?

What is the most effective approach to sex education?

How well is the Wisconsin DNR managing chronic wasting disease?

Are the tariffs on steel aluminum (recently proposed by the President) a good policy to improve the U.S. economy?

How has the increased use of social media affected the social skills of teens or young adults?

How historically accurate is the musical *Hamilton*?