

## Tips for Choosing a Good Senior Thesis Topic

The purpose of Cary Christian School's senior thesis is to serve the CCS community (and to prepare to serve later communities in which you find yourself) by offering a well-researched, thoughtful, and articulate case for an important idea and/or call to action in a paper and presentation.

1. **Select a topic you are interested in.** You will be spending a lot of time on this project, and the more interesting you find it, the easier it will be to stick with it throughout the school year.
2. **Select a topic that you find meaningful.** Your ultimate goal is to persuade other people to accept the ideas you are putting forth in your paper and presentation. Choose something that will make a positive difference if they do.
3. **Select a topic that is actually debatable.** Be sure there are real, substantial arguments made by actual people on both sides.
4. **Select a topic with ethical, philosophical, or religious implications.** This does not mean your topic must be something that Plato or Jesus spoke about directly. It does, however, mean that your topic should relate on some level to significant, enduring questions about truth, goodness, and beauty. (This includes more topics than you may realize, so talk to Mr. Halbrook before vetoing something you're interested in.)
5. **Select a topic that can be narrowed down if necessary.** For instance, it is not possible to write a thesis covering every aspect of climate change, but it is possible to write a thesis arguing whether climate change over the past hundred years has been man-made. At the beginning your topic can be broader, but eventually it may need to be narrowed.
6. **Select a topic that you can state in the form of a question.** Your thesis will provide the solution to a problem.
7. **You do *not* need to know the side you will debate at the outset.** To begin with, you can simply choose a general topic. The point of your research throughout the second quarter will be to help you decide which side you should take. Begin with an open mind, even if you have an idea of the position you will eventually take.
8. **You do *not* need to select a topic with which the teachers and administrators at CCS agree.** If you have a topic you are genuinely interested in, don't be afraid to pursue it simply because you are worried that your panelists will disagree with you. Your teachers will admire your courage, even if they take another position. Your topic should, however—with a few possible exceptions—be consistent with Cary Christian School's Statement of Faith.