I Need a Topic

Choosing a topic for your Senior Project is a crucial first step. A good senior project topic:
- Is something you're excited about. Why spend your senior year doing something you really don't care about?
- Challenges you. Now is not the time to recycle a project you did earlier. If you're still interested in that earlier topic, use your original project as the springboard to learning more about the topic.
- Is researchable. You have to write a Senior Paper that requires sources – make sure you'll be able to find information.
- Lets you apply your knowledge. The Senior Product is your chance to do something with your new knowledge.

Your Senior Project must also incorporate **two** of the following criteria:
- **Academic**: You can satisfy this criterion by taking a class outside of Johnson High School. Community Education classes are great resources to find classes.   Many businesses in the community also offer classes in specialized areas.
- **Service:** You can satisfy this criterion by providing a service to Johnson or the outside community. Volunteering or teaching others are excellent ways to give back.
- **Personal Growth:** You can satisfy this criterion by facing a unique personal challenge, such as training for a marathon or learning about your ancestry.
- **Career:** You can satisfy this criterion by completing an internship or attending career-specific training. (Be careful – it's not enough to just redo your Freshman FOCUS paper and your Foundations job-shadow, although they may provide you with great starting points.)

To find the perfect Senior Project topic trust your interests and passions. What would you do if you had one million dollars? Do you have an idea? Now scale that idea down into something that would work for your Senior Project.   Make sure your topic will lend itself to both an interesting research paper and product.
- A student who had epilepsy when she was younger wrote her paper about the different types of epilepsy and volunteered at a local hospital working with epileptic children.
- A student concerned about the environment wrote her paper about global warming and created a mosaic which she donated to Johnson.
- A student saw a problem at work and wanted to do something for her employer. She wrote her paper on the different ways to store documents and created a manual to help her fellow office workers understand the new system. (Her Senior Project actually earned her a promotion at work!)
- A swimmer interested in coaching researched how to create a strong team and then designed a website with individual, team, and conference times and pictures to help motivate the teams.
- A student from a hunting family (but not a hunter herself) learned the art of taxidermy and mounted a deer head.
- An avid video-game player created her own video game complete with beta-testing, personally drawn characters and storyline, and marketed it to various on-line gaming sites.