**Possible Semester Topic Ideas**

Politics/Economics:

Gerrymandering/Redistricting

Citizens United/Campaign Finance Reform

Voter ID Laws

Immigration

Social Security and Welfare programs

Privacy rights

Copyright laws

The Patriot Act

Animal rights

Drug legalization

Taxation

Minimum wage

Term limits

Torture and interrogations

Equal pay for women

The wealth gap

Drug testing in work/schools

Distribution of wealth/Inheritance laws

Preservation of historic buildings

Outsourcing to foreign countries

Use of the confederate flag/monuments

Human trafficking

Corporate Responsibility

Wage theft

Government subsidies

Crime and Punishment:

Police brutality/excessive force

Police tactics/engagement

Police militarization

Prison overcrowding

Mandatory minimum laws

Stand your ground law

Stop and frisk/racial profiling

Sexting

Quota policing

Compensation for wrongly convicted

Body cameras

The Castle Doctrine

Drug policy/war on drugs

Use of military gear

Environmental:

Fracking

Global population growth

Water rationing

Carbon emission taxes

Deforestation

Industrial waste clean up

Recycling

Hydraulic dams

How to address climate change

Green technologies in construction

Education:

College tuition costs

Bullying

School vouchers

Privatizing public schools

School funding

Standardized testing

School day and school year lengths

Online vs. face-to-face learning

Reducing music, arts and physical ed

School food

Technology in the classroom

Corporate presence in schools

Health/Medical:

Vaccines

Prescription drug abuse

Autism

Cancer treatments

Organ donors and transplants

Gene therapy/stem cell research

Designer babies

Use of GMOs in crops

Body image/dieting

Access to birth control/Sex ed

Control of high sugar and fatty foods

Pharmaceutical companies and profit

Over prescription of drugs and antibiotics

Sports/Entertainment

Gender and race diversity in film and TV

Fair use and copyright laws/music sampling

Effects of concussions

Naming of sports teams

Athlete personal conduct

Performance enhancing drugs/doping

Sports gambling

Student athletes and scholarships/cheating scandals

Technology:

Alternative energy

Stalking with technology

Companies collecting personal information

Internet censorship

Access to internet

Military:

Drone/Robotic Warfare

War on terror

Chemical warfare

Returned soldier medical care

Women on the frontlines

Justification of military force

Compulsory military service

Topics to avoid (Topics that are either overdone, speculative, or apt to bias):

Abortion

Marijuana

Euthanasia

Gun control

Global Warming

Drinking age

Paranormal Phenomena

Religious issues (Unless related to policy issues such as taxation, religious rights and health care, business or school issues)

Philosophical issues

|  |
| --- |
| Topic |
| Border health issues |
| Lowering water tables |
| Arroyo flooding |
| Domestic violence |
| Children’s heath |
| Childhood poverty |
| Colonias—poverty |
| Overpopulation of  animals |
| Sports issues |
| Mental health issues |
| Education issues |
| Off-Shore drilling (oil) |
| Water Management |
| World Health |
| Adolescent Cosmetic  Surgery |
| Racism |
| Separation of Church  and State |
| Internet Addiction |
| Ageism |
| Public School System |
| Access to Technology |
| Native American  Issues |