Cailynn Adelman has grown up playing soccer. During her freshman year, she developed many superstitions she had to do before she played in her games. She wanted to discover why she relied on these superstitions, while other athletes do not have any. In her project, *Superstitions in Sports*, she analyzes the root cause of superstitions, and what causes athletes and sports fans to depend on these rituals. Cailynn will be continuing her love for soccer in college, and will be attending American University where she plans on studying communications and marketing.

Rachael Bennett has always been a hands-on learner with a keen eye for detail. This unique perspective on life and her passion for design and problem solving led to her interest in STEM career paths. At a young age, she was exposed to the gender gap of STEM-related projects, and ever since has been curious of why the gap existed. This interest prompted her Ulysses project, *Smart is the New Cute: A Study of Women in STEM*, where she focused her research on the reasons behind the gender gap. Rachael’s future plans include attending a four-year university and majoring in web page and digital design to pursue her intended career path of web designer.

Jacob Brady has been hooked on instrumental music since he first saw a trumpet in 4th grade. As a trumpet player in the Northwest High School marching band, he furthered his knowledge of the world of marching music. He is excited to share his love of band through his senior Ulysses project *Marching Forward, A Study of the Evolution of Marching Band*. In addition to learning about marching music’s relevance in today’s society, he is interested in educating people about the effects of recent developments in the world of marching music on the genre’s overall character. Jacob hopes to study Aerospace Engineering in college next year.
**Marissa Branham** grew up with the obstacles that came with having ADHD. After being medically diagnosed with Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder when she was six years old, she faced many incidents of being stereotyped and made fun of for having ADHD. Although it has made her life difficult, she did not allow her ADHD to prevent her from anything. With this mindset, she decided that through her project, *The Stereotypes of ADHD*, she will share her personal experiences as well as others with ADHD in an attempt to change society’s view on ADHD. In the future, Marissa plans on studying pre-med to become a paramedic, not allowing her ADHD to ever stand in her way.

**Emily Devereux** has made it a priority to be caring and kind. She has experience in helping others who were being bullied. Bullying is a current and important topic and more awareness about all angles of the issue should be emphasized. In her project, *The Aftermath of Bullying: A Study of the Lasting Effects*, Emily highlights the effects of bullying because bullying can stay with people for a long time. She hopes to use the skills she learned from her research to pursue a future in the field of psychology. In the fall of 2019, she will be attending Salisbury University.

**Alex Edwing** thought of her topic when discussing a friend's anthropology professor at college. Intrigued by the stories she heard on how different funerals are held and carried out in different regions of the world, Alex decided to complete her project, *Burial Rituals: A Study of How Different Cultures Around the World View Death*. She has conducted her research by interviewing a variety of anthropologists who are experts on one of three special funeral rituals in Mexico, Madagascar, and Indonesia. She hopes to educate those who are unfamiliar with other cultural traditions and differing views on death. In the future, she hopes to travel the world to respectfully experience the traditions of many cultures.
**Emily Fishman** has always been interested in the environment and how it is being affected. She has furthered this interest by taking AP Environmental Science and learning how a multitude of factors influence earth’s conditions. She decided to look more closely into the aspect of wildfires through her Ulysses project, *How Wildfires Affect the Environment and the Community*. Wildfires have become an extremely prevalent disturbance in society today and she believes that it is important to research the effect of wildfires specifically on physical and emotional aspects on both the environment and the community. Emily plans to further her research by studying environmental science in college.

**Dasam Gill** has been interested in animals since he was just ten years old. As a child, his first dog, Sammy, allowed him to get through some tough times. His interest piqued when he realized that in the presence of an animal such as a dog, he felt better. In his project, *The Benefits of Animal-Assisted Therapy*, Dasam explores how animals can help benefit mental, emotional, and physical health. He not only explores the benefits, but also the consequences, such as financial costs, that might come with participating in animal-assisted therapy. In the future, Dasam plans on studying to become a pediatrician and majoring in medicine while continuing his research on animal-assisted therapy.

**Lane Graver** has always had an interest in combat sports. He began Jiu Jitsu at an early age and has continued to study martial arts throughout his life. Going into high school, he became interested in becoming a wrestler to further explore that interest. However, things took a turn for him as he started to learn about the weight cuts that had to be made to win. In his senior project, *The Dangers of Weight Cuts in Sports*, Lane studied the dangers that weight cutting can have on both the body and the mind, and he hopes to find safer methods of cutting. In the future, Lane plans to study business and eventually get his masters in business administration.
Grace Gureckis has always had an interest in social interactions and how they have changed over time due to the excessive use of smartphones. When she tried to refrain from using social media and texting during her sophomore year, she found it to be extremely difficult. Grace’s project, *The Impact Of Smartphones On Human Connections*, explores how teens react to not having their smartphones to interact with others and are driven to create connections face-to-face. Grace plans to take what she has learned from social media and turn it into a career in social media marketing and business management in college.

Elaina Hagen enjoys hanging out with her brother, Jake, and her friends, along with playing lacrosse in her free time. Her inspiration to do her project on *Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome: The Effects on Young Adults*, was because she was diagnosed with POTS in the 8th grade. She wants to raise awareness of invisible illnesses and help people understand how much it impacts those who have the illness. Her family, school officials, and friends supported her in reaching her goal of playing lacrosse in college while living with POTS. She is going to attend and play lacrosse at Marymount University in Arlington, Virginia and will be studying Criminal Justice. In the future she hopes to become a police officer and work her way up to detective.

Soojin Jang grew up observing people’s reactions to personal accomplishments in a competitive environment. She has questioned whether there is a perfect balance between keeping her successes private and sharing her successes with others for merited applause. In her project, *To Brag or Not to Brag: A Study on the Perception of Modesty and Pride*, she researches individuals’ perception of these traits through personal definitions and responses to different scenarios involving achievements. She hopes to create a wider conversation regarding how and when to declare impressive performances. In the future, Soojin will keep these ideas in mind as she attends college with a major in chemistry.
**Katherine Jones** thought of her topic while watching the Netflix documentary, *The Bleeding Edge*. She has been interested in the medical field for most of her life. The documentary opened her eyes to problems involving medical device regulation. In her project, *The Failed Device Administration: A Study of the FDA’s Regulation of Medical Devices*, Katherine explores problems in the regulation process and how these problems have affected the lives of patients across the country. In the future, Katherine plans to attend college and major in health science studies.

**Denise Kyeremeh** was inspired to research the *The Effect of Mass Incarceration on American Society* after she watched the Netflix documentary, *13th*. She doesn’t know anyone involved in the criminal justice system but that made the topic more interesting to her. She wanted to explore how mass incarceration impacts people who are not directly affected by the prison system. Mass incarceration affects all Americans and all Americans contribute to the problem unconsciously. She has thoroughly enjoyed learning about bias and racism found in American social structures. Next year she hopes to either continue studying social justice or nursing.

**Mathieu Lacourciere** has always been interested in STEM. Since his freshman year of high school, he has been part of the Northwest High School FRC Robotics team. Through his time on the school’s robotics team, Mathieu has developed a love and interest in robotics. While browsing online, Mathieu stumbled upon a small area of robotics that seemed interesting: Microrobotics. When reading about microrobotics, there were many cool innovations and technologies mostly unseen by the public. In his project, *Small Robots with a Big Influence: Microrobotics*, Mathieu explores current developments in microrobotics, along with its future. Mathieu plans to go to college and study computer science with the goal of working with robotics in the future.
Nick Lawrence has always been intrigued by technology, and as a result, chose a career path at a young age. He spends a lot of time on his computer at home. As result of all this computer time, he wanted to know how staring at the screen all day was affecting him. Through his research project, *Blue Light: Effects on the Human Body*, Nick reveals what blue light is, and what the true effects of blue light are on the human body. His research consists of an original experiment testing for the quality of sleep students receive after being exposed to blue light. He is looking forward to the college experience coming up next year at the University of Maryland.

Dahlia Linowes grew up in a Jewish household with strong ties to Israel. She became intrigued by the Israeli-Palestinian conflict impacts after her older brother, Jeremy, left to serve in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in 2014. Dahlia has worked with her school’s Muslim Student Association and strengthened relationships between Jews and Muslims in her own community. She also spent her spring semester of junior year studying abroad in Israel, exploring rich history and culture. Dahlia has worked to promote mutual understanding through her research project titled, *Finding Peace in (and out) of the Middle East: The Jewish-Muslim Connection*. Dahlia will pursue her love of cross-cultural communication and conflict-resolution by continuing her research as an International Relations and Global Studies major at university.

Ethan Martinez has always loved watching *YouTube* in his free time. Upon watching a video discussing free will, he was surprised at the number of factors that can affect people’s decisions in ways they may not know. In an effort to understand more about why he makes the decisions he does, Ethan began researching his Ulysses project, *Cognitive Biases and Their Effect on Decision Making*. Through this project, he hopes to help people better understand their decisions in order to make better ones. In the future, Ethan plans to pursue a double major in Computer Science and Business, Finance, or Economics.
Sarah McGrath was nine years old when her family adopted two brothers from Ethiopia. Being part of a multiracial, adoptive family has shaped her into the person she is today and has altered her perception of what truly makes a family. Growing up, she was always intrigued by the media’s impact on societal norms and after watching the television show, *This Is Us*, she became more curious about the representation of adoption in the media. This led to her Ulysses Project, *Adoption in the Media*. Sarah plans to study accounting or finance in college.

Jessica Schneider was a part of the ski team at her middle school where she first began skiing. Soon after, she took up snowboarding and as a result, spent most of her time in at the mountains. During this time she experienced and witnessed many injuries causing her to wonder which injuries skiers and snowboarders are most prone to. Her project, *A Study of Injury in Snowboarding and Skiing*, analyzes personal experiences from skiers and snowboarders to address her primary research question. Jessica plans to continue snowboarding while also studying at college next year.

Haley Slingluff has been interested in the vaccination debate since seeing an episode of *Law and Order: SVU* which featured the topic. She was intrigued by the different portrayals of vaccination throughout the media. This led to her Ulysses project, *To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate: The Effect of the Media on the Vaccination Debate*. In her project, Haley explores the effect of television, internet, social media, news, and other sources on people’s opinions of vaccination. After Northwest, Haley plans to study chemistry or chemical engineering in college.
**Kelly Souza** has been making observations related to students’ participation during the Pledge of Allegiance since her freshman year. She was surprised to notice that while some stood to recite the Pledge, there were many others who would remain seated. Through her project, titled *I Pledge Allegiance*, she focuses on understanding the history of the Pledge, as well as uncovering the reasoning and factors that play a role in whether a student decides to stand or not stand. In the future, Kelly hopes to major in secondary education, specifically in English or history.

**Alex Srey** has been interested in computers ever since he was a little kid. Through his time playing video games and hours spent using the internet, he developed an interest to pursue computer science and learn as much as he can. Recently, lessons learned in a AP Computer Science class inspired him to research into cybersecurity. His Ulysses project, *Cybersecurity and Cyberterrorism*, explores cybersecurity technology, the dynamic between cybercrime and cybersecurity, as well as the future of the field. Alex plans to study computer science and cybersecurity in college.

**Katelyn Tat** grew up learning about global warming and its detrimental effects on the planet. Teachers, as well as the news media, have ingrained the existence of global warming into her mind. However, she soon learned that there are a multitude of people who do not believe in the existence of global warming. She became intrigued with this contrasting perspective, which led to her project, *Global Warming: Debate Over the Truth*. Her project allowed her to explore the reasoning behind why people doubt the existence of global warming, and to further investigate the science behind global warming. Next year, Katelyn plans on attending college to study Civil/Environmental Engineering.