Mervyn Akumbu has always been interested in why people are the way that they are. He became interested in his project, *The Psychological Effects of Different Parenting Styles on Children*, when talking with his friends about the ways that they were raised. He wanted to figure out what made them different and how those differences correlated to the parenting styles in their homes. Through his research, Mervyn hopes to share which parenting style is best for raising children to be the most successful adults. He plans to attend a four-year college next year and major in psychology with hopes of continuing to medical school to become a psychiatrist.

Colby Chung has been a competitive swimmer for most of his life, and he learned quickly that in order to perform his best in competitions, he had to take care of his body both mentally and physically. For his project, *The Art of Muscle Recovery*, Colby focuses on the effectiveness of muscle recovery methods while debunking the stigma behind different muscle recovery techniques. He hopes his project will help people become more educated about muscle recovery so that they can utilize them in their daily lives. In the future, Colby plans to attend University of Maryland, College Park, to major in biochemistry in hopes of becoming a doctor of osteopathic medicine.

Fredrica Deegbe has always been intrigued about the schism within the American Black community. The divide among African-Americans, African immigrants, and Black Americans is a subject that is rarely discussed and she wanted to bring it to light. Her project, *Does Color Equal Culture? A Study of Assimilation and the Divide Within the Black Community*, addresses the issue of same race discrimination and colorism within the black community. Next year, Frederica plans to double major in political science and the performing arts at a four-year university.
Josh Feldman was scrolling through Bleacher Report when he came across the participation trophy debate. Having played sports at both the youth and competitive levels, he was interested in why society favors participation rewards rather than having winners and losers. As he conducted his research junior year, Josh began to notice that the same intentions of reducing the competition in youth sports were being applied to middle and high schools to minimize competition among students. It was after this realization that his project, Participation Nation, was born, with the intention of determining if shielding students from failure and competition from their T-ball days through college prep is in their best interest. In the future, Josh will be attending the University of Pittsburgh.

Jason Goldman has always had terrible handwriting, which made him wonder why he was cursed with such an ailment. This led to his project, The Science Of Handwriting: How Demographics Affect Writing Style. He is interested in how people differ, and handwriting is a prime example of how people vary in subtle ways. Next year, he plans to go to the University of Maryland to study public policy, and he looks forward to dealing with people and the policies that affect them.

Audra Haines has played soccer since the age of four. She grew up watching professional soccer, specifically the Washington Spirit. At a young age she found a role model on the field in Ali Krieger. In her project, Professional Athletes as Role Models, Audra explores several factors including how gender affects the selection of role models, the inspiration a role model provides, and the role the media plays in how the public views professional athletes. Audra will continue both her academic and athletic career at St. Mary’s College of Maryland next year where she plans to study biology and play soccer.
Serena Handa thought of studying marine animals in captivity while watching the documentary, *Blackfish*. She has long had an interest in animals and the documentary focused on orcas in captivity. Social media brought attention to the more general topic of animal captivity, and she saw photos of polar bears in captivity which prompted an emotional response. This inspired her project, *The Effects of Animal Captivity on Marine Life*. Next fall, Serena will be attending the University of Maryland where she plans to major in business.

Matthew Johnson has always been active in the outdoors, particularly camping and camping-related activities. But lately, Matthew has been very interested in hiking after a life-changing experience where he hiked eleven straight days in New Mexico in 2016. This experience inspired Matthew to research his project, *The Benefits of Hiking on the Mind and the Body*, which is a study of how hiking has the ability to benefit people’s minds and bodies. Next year, Matthew plans to attend Clemson University.

Hooman Keshmiri has always liked to be efficient. If a task could be automated or be made more efficient, he would try to find it. This made him especially interested in Artificial Intelligence, a newly developing autonomous technology. Coupled with his parents’ careers in the medical field, he decided to explore his project, *The Possibility of Future AI Implementation in the Medical Field*. Next year, Hooman plans on pursuing a degree in computer science at the University of Maryland, College Park.
Amber Lu has always been interested in psychology, especially intelligence and how one’s intelligence is seen to define oneself. She began to wonder if there were other factors that contribute to one’s achievements besides academic intelligence. Soon after, she stumbled upon the topic of emotional intelligence. In her Ulysses project, *EQ vs. IQ: How Emotional Intelligence Affects Professional Success*, Amber explores how emotional intelligence is as crucial to one’s future success as one’s academic performance. In the future, Amber plans on using her research to study psychology in college.

Endalk Makonnen has been fascinated with money ever since he received his first dollar. As time progressed, he was surprised to witness people acting differently in situations whenever money was involved. This inspired him to learn more by completing his senior Ulysses research project, *Money on My Mind: The Effects of Money on Human Behavior*. He hopes to educate people on the various ways money can influence a person's thought process. Next year, Endalk will be attending the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Thomas Markey has had a passion for soccer since the age of three, and grew up attending games of local Major League Soccer club, DC United. Since the inaugural Major League Soccer season in 1996, the number of teams in the league has more than doubled and the franchises cover almost every region of the United States and Canada. Through his project, *The Evolution of Major League Soccer*, Thomas explores what drove such rapid growth and who made it possible. In addition to attending professional soccer games, Thomas has also been playing competitive soccer since a young age, and he plans to continue his athletic and academic career at Stevenson University next fall.
Ashley Nguyen has always wanted to work in medicine, and this passion was further solidified when she interned at the biologics company, MedImmune. As she watched the scientists develop and test their drugs, she became more excited to learn about pharmaceuticals. However, the constant presence of the opioid crisis in the news caused her to see the dark side of the pharmaceutical industry. Her project, *How the Pharmaceutical Industry Impacts the Opioid Crisis*, explores the history of the epidemic, the methods of developing, testing, and marketing new opioids, and addiction prevention. In college, Ashley plans to study biochemistry on the pre-pharmacy track.

Max Pagella began playing football when he was seven years old. As he got older he began to wonder about possible long-term health risks of playing football. While on the *Washington Post* website, he came across an article about chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE); it was after reading this article that he developed his interest in CTE and its effects on former athletes. His project, *Get Your Head in the Game*, focuses on CTE in former football players, and explores its effects on the body, as well as the opinions of both current and former football players on CTE and other brain trauma. In the future, Max will be attending the University of Maryland where he hopes to study biochemistry.

Thomas She has been a distracted child since birth. While in high school, he began to discover that it was getting harder to focus on his work. Searching for different ways to improve his concentration, he discovered binaural beats. The effects of the sound allowed him to focus more effectively on his work. This led him to wonder how sounds actually affect the human body. Thomas decided to learn more about this topic by completing his project, *How Does Sound Affect Our Bodies?* He hopes to help introduce people to how some types of sound can be incorporated into their own lives. In the future, Thomas plans on majoring in engineering in college to introduce new ways to benefit people’s health.
Michaela Staab has always been interested in other cultures and the complexity of the languages that people speak. She remembers one particular incident when babysitting a five year old who spent the time laughing at how bad her Spanish was, despite her having taken five years of Spanish in school. After wondering about why people become fluent in their native language while others struggle to learn the same language as adults, she decided on her project, *Bilingual Babies: How Children and Adults Learn a Language*. After high school, Michaela plans on majoring in biomedical engineering and then going to medical school to become a dermatologist.

Kristina Sutliff has long been conscious of spending her money wisely. Being a proud feminist, she is always ready for the challenge of fighting sexism. When she started to realize that women had to pay more than men for most products, she became curious to learn more. This realization prompted her project, *The Woman Tax: A Study of Consumer Sexism*. Her research explores the effects of The Woman Tax and the logic, if there is any, behind it. She hopes to use her newfound knowledge to study finance at the University of Maryland, College Park.

Akash Talwar has lived in the United States his whole life. His parents immigrated from India before he was born to pursue career opportunities. During a trip to India over the summer, Akash noticed the stark differences between his life in the United States and his grandparents’ life in India. This led to his senior project, *The Effects of American Immigration on Indian Families*, to further explore his curiosity into how immigrating to the United States affects the values of Indian families. In the future, Akash plans on studying computer engineering at the University of Maryland.
Stephanie Villalobos became interested in rising virtual trends when she began using the internet on a more frequent basis. After investing much of her free time watching the show *Catfish*, she was inspired to develop her final project, *The Effects of Online Impersonation on Our Safety*. Stephanie’s research explores the range of activities regarding online impersonation and how it affects internet users overall. She plans on using her findings to inform others about the dangers of social media trends and the process of practicing online safety. Her future plans include a career in law enforcement.

Lauren Walker grew up learning about her family’s small business. Lauren noticed that with the rise of Amazon, her Dad’s small business had to stop selling certain products because customers began to make certain purchases online due to lower pricing and faster shipping. This trend led to Lauren’s project, *The Amazon Effect: How Amazon is Impacting Brick and Mortar Stores*. Lauren plans to double major in business and political science at The University of Maryland in the fall and eventually attend law school.

Matthew Weiss has been fascinated with the expression of political ideas from a young age. Through his observations, he noticed certain ideas and speech were being condemned, essentially shutting down debate. When looking further into the topic, he discovered that this idea was already being studied in the form of The Overton Window. Wanting to know what issues his peers and community thought were considered “appropriate” to talk about, he pursued his interest in his project, *A Shifting Landscape: A Study of the Effects of The Overton Window*. Matthew plans to further pursue his interest through his participation in various political organizations while he attends The University of Maryland.