Yousif Alsaadi has been a geek since his birth within the matrix. His fascination with the Cold War and movies surrounding that particular era led to his interest in everything nuclear. During his research on nuclear reactors, he discovered a public stigma involving nuclear reactors which have yet to be resolved despite the war going cold. Through his project, *The Future of Nuclear Reactors*, Yousif hopes to address the public’s confusion and fear regarding nuclear reactors. Next year, Yousif will attend the University of Maryland, College Park, to major in psychology so that he can be the next Jack Ryan.

Laura Bartelt has had a special place in her heart for animals ever since she was a little girl. She grew up loving and caring for animals; whenever she got the chance to help out animals, she would not hesitate. Laura has always said that when she was older she wanted to be a veterinarian and that one of her goals in life was to put an end to animal abuse. As she got older, she noticed that animals are used by humans in a variety of ways. This inspired Laura to complete her senior research project, *Animal Ab/Use: A Study of the Difference Between Animal Use and Animal Abuse*. She hopes to spread awareness about animal abuse and encourage ways to put an end to it. Next year, Laura will continue her education at Towson University as a biology major, to hopefully become a vet.

Jimmy Blurton has always had an interest in topics too taboo for typical conversations, constantly discovering new things on his own time. While neither religious nor a believer in any widespread conspiracies, he decided to dive into the differences between conspiracy theories and religion as a topic in Advanced Research class during junior year. In his senior project, *Can You Believe What You Cannot See?* he analyzes conspiracy theories and how they relate to religion. Jimmy plans on majoring in Fire Protection Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park.
Diana Bunghiuz has always been intrigued by the world of medicine. From her volunteer work at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital during her sophomore year to her more recent volunteer work with the NIH in lymphoma research, her passion for medicine flourished. Reading articles on the implications of vaccines on today’s children led her to her project, *The Divergence on Vaccines: A Study of Children’s Vaccinations*. Diana analyzes the way vaccines respond and are administered to the immunocompetent versus immunocompromised children. She plans to continue her studies at the University of Maryland to major in the Biological Sciences or Neurobiology and Physiology while continuing on a pre-medical path.

Matthew Dahan has always been intrigued by politics and international affairs. Growing up in a multicultural household, he was exposed to a lot of international news and different cultures. The 2016 presidential elections is when Matthew really became invested in politics. This led to his continued interest in the growing nationalist and populist movements around the world and to his senior project, *Keep Watch: A Study of Nationalism in Europe and the United States*. He hopes to spread awareness about the issue of nationalism and inform his peers. Next year, Matthew will be attending American University where he will major in their School of International Service.

Emily Eason has studied Spanish as a foreign language for seven years and enjoyed immersive experiences in México and Guatemala. Some of her family, extended family, and closest friends are bilingual and have taught her many things about other cultures and global awareness. It was not until she traveled to Antigua, Guatemala, that Emily realized speaking more than one language has a plethora of benefits to one’s success in life. In her final project, *The Neurology of a Brain With Two Tongues: A Study of the Benefits of Bilingualism*, Emily explores multiple areas where bilingualism is beneficial and impactful to one’s academic success and social life. In the future, Emily hopes to travel to more Spanish-speaking countries and double-major in Political Science and Spanish Language and Culture in college.
Varunaa Hemanth has been intrigued by the immune system from a young age. Her specific interest in biomaterials started when she stumbled upon an article about 3D printing a heart. From there she learned about scaffolds and other biomaterials. Her interest turned to passion during her internship at MedImmune last summer. She was curious as to why the body did not reject these foreign materials placed in the body. Her curiosity on this topic led to her project, *The Immune Response to Biomaterials*. She discusses new advancements in biocompatibility methods in her research. She plans to study bioengineering at the University of Maryland.

Alexandra Karamihas has worked with and been surrounded by children with special needs since she was in elementary school. After years of interaction and one-on-one activities, she was inspired to create her project around children with special needs. This led to the development of her project, *The Interactions of Children With and Without Special Needs in an Inclusive Setting*. Her goal is to help children with special needs improve their performance and participation in everyday activities and while promoting overall independence. Next year, Alexandra will attend The University of Maryland where she will major in kinesiology in hope of becoming an occupational therapist for children with special needs.

Sukhman Kaur has always been intrigued by how quickly technology is advancing and becoming a part of our everyday life. She became interested in Artificial Intelligence after taking a trip to the MIT museum and was surprised at how this new technology is influencing many fields of work, particularly the medical field. This concept of Artificial Intelligence and medical professionals working together to improve the medical field led to her research project, *The Advancements of Artificial Intelligence in the Medical Field*. Her project explores the different ways AI is being implemented in medicine, especially neurology, and how it is impacting the professionals using it. She plans to major in a STEM field at the University of Maryland.
Nina Khoshkish has always been a big rock music fan. Her love for the genre stemmed from listening to songs with her father growing up, and hearing about the stories behind the songs and the bands. This inspired Nina’s project, *Rock ‘n’ Roll ‘n’ Social Change: The Impact of Rock Music on Society*, which explores how certain songs have changed the lives of many and how important the genre is. Nina will be studying journalism and international service at American University in the fall.

Josepha Komeka developed a strong interest in the field of medicine over the last four years. Since her mother works for an organization whose main goal is to end poverty worldwide, Josepha was aware of the subject from an early age and noticed that photographs shared by the organization often featured children in poverty. She chose her project, *The Physiological Impact of Poverty on Children’s Development*, about a widespread issue that is often overlooked. Through her research, Josepha hopes to educate others on the negative impact a child can experience while growing up in poverty and seeking ways to make a difference in the future. Josepha plans to attend college and major in biochemistry and minor in business in hopes of becoming a pediatrician.

Ella Malmgren has had a love for dance ever since she was little. In seventh grade, she started participating in a program that her studio held called “Super Social Saturday” which encourages people with disabilities to participate in dance classes and social exercises. She noticed how positively people reacted to the classes, and how it helped build social skills. For her project, *Classroom Environments for Children*, Ella explores the different educational options available for students with autism, and which options have been proven most effective. In the future, Ella will attend the University of Tampa and major in mass communications with a concentration in public relations.
Jenna Mertz visited the zoo many times as she grew up. However, with the increasing relevance of the morality of zoos, she became curious about the reasons people support or do not support zoos. She wanted to learn more about what really goes on at zoos, and what contributes to their ethics being questioned. This curiosity led to her project, *The Controversy Surrounding Zoos*, where she explored the effectiveness of zoo conservation and education efforts. Next year, Jenna will be attending Cornell University with plans to major in chemical or biomedical engineering.

Christian Pawlowski has played sports his entire life and it’s a very important aspect of it. From playing a sport every year and seeing the different effects of certain coaching styles, he knew that he wanted to do his Ulysses project on the impacts of coaching styles. While doing research for his project, *The Study of the Impact of Coaches on the Athletes’ Success*, Christian explores the real impact coaches have and what they can do to help athletes become the best that they can be. He also wants to be able to learn how these coaching styles affect the athletes long after they have moved on from a particular coach. Christian plans on attending college to obtain a degree in criminal justice.

Miranda Pierce has been passionate about environmental conservation since her elementary school’s field trip to the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Growing up she spent all her time outside. She roamed and explored from the salamanders and newts in the streams to the bird nests in the treetops. She was always concerned with pollution of any kind, but was shocked to have only learned about ocean acidification in her later high school years. Through her project, *Climate Change’s Evil Twin: The Socioeconomic and Environmental Effects of Ocean Acidification* she explored just that. Miranda will study civil and environmental engineering in college and plans to specialize in water resource engineering.
Hatruc Quach grew up loving America. As a child raised by parents who immigrated to the United States as refugees, she was led to believe that the US was one of the greatest countries to live in. As she grew older, she began to understand that others did not share the same positive outlook. This inspired Hatruc to delve deeper into the topic of international opinion in her project, *A Study of the Way the World Perceives the United States*. Through her research, Hatruc explores various countries’ opinions of the United States. In the future, she plans to further her understanding of global interactions by pursuing international relations at university.

Molly Skinker has long been interested in human behavior and the brain. After watching a few friends struggle with school due to ADHD, she became interested in what made it hard for them. In AP Psychology junior year she was first introduced to “The Marshmallow Test.” Seeing how some of the small children were able to control their impulses led her to wonder why some of her friends could not. She explores how impulse control aids people’s ability to stay focused in her Ulysses project, *The Effects of Impulse Control on High School Students Academic Success*. Molly examines how students’ are able to control the impulse of going on their phones while doing work and how their impulse control affects their GPAs. Next year, Molly hopes to attend either University of South Carolina or the University of Tampa to study criminology.

Constance Tabora has always been intrigued by the impact of gender roles and the dynamics that affect the development of individuals. After listening to her mother and older sister talk about salary negotiation, Constance knew she wanted to pursue the topic. Through research on her project, *Gender Differences in Salary Negotiation*, she learned more about the role gender plays in salary negotiation. Her career goal is to become a certified financial planner and specialize in retirement planning.