

Overview of the Capstone Project

The Capstone Project will be completed in stages with due dates in **Weeks 5, 9, 13**, and the **end of the course**. You will have an opportunity to select a contemporary topic, find a proposed solution, and creatively express your argumentative position in your medium of choice: a tweet, dialogue, or images/charts. Your project's successful completion will demonstrate your understanding and application of key critical thinking concepts we have learned this session. You will have choices to make, including the topic that you will work on and the medium in which you will be submitting your work.

The Capstone Project includes four parts:

Part 1 – Topic Selection: your task is to select a topic (Gun Violence, Illegal Immigration, or #MeToo movement) and justify your choice in the Discussion Forum by discussing the main problem or issue. Due in **Week 5**.

Part 2 – Proposed Solution: you will continue researching and developing your understanding of issues related to your selected topic in a Discussion Forum. Due in **Week 9**.

Part 3 - Draft of Project and Peer Feedback: in your draft, you will argue for a chosen position related to your topic, following a 7-step critical thinking process. You will provide substantive feedback to your classmates on their projects in a Discussion Forum. Due in **Week 13**.

Part 4 – Final Capstone Project: you will have an opportunity to creatively express your argumentative position in a medium of your choice (a tweet, dialogue, or images/charts). In addition, you are asked to reconstruct your argument using the concepts learned in class. The completed, edited, and polished version of your Capstone Project will be shared with your peers in a Discussion Forum. Due by **end of the session**.

You will receive feedback from your peers and instructor for Parts 1-3 of the project. You are encouraged to review and apply this feedback to improve your project.

Learning Objectives

Your completed Capstone Project will demonstrate the following learning objectives:

- Use critical thinking skills to assess information, solve problems, and make decisions
- Identify, reconstruct and appraise different argument types that appear in print/non-print media
- Evaluate inductive and deductive inferences using the concepts of validity, soundness, reliability, strength and cogency
- Construct and evaluate oral and written arguments emphasizing clarity and reason.
- Research: Locate, synthesize, and evaluate narrative and numerical information in print, electronic, and live formats.