

Assign Platform Topics (February 2026):

Due Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

Assigned Platform Topics (February 2026)

Robot Pets: Robot pets are machines that look and act like real animals, such as robot dogs or robot cats, and they can move, make sounds, and respond to people. This topic is important because robot pets are becoming more common in homes, hospitals, and care centers, and they raise questions about how technology can replace or support real relationships with animals. This topic works as both informative and persuasive because students can explain how robot pets work and also discuss whether they are helpful, harmful, or unnecessary. Students could research robot pets for elderly people to reduce loneliness, robot pets used in hospitals to calm patients, or robot pets for children who want a pet but cannot have a real one.

Weather Balloons: Weather balloons are large balloons that scientists send high into the sky with tools that measure temperature, wind speed, wind direction, and air pressure. This topic is important because weather balloons help scientists predict storms, protect flights, and warn communities about dangerous weather like typhoons, hurricanes, and blizzards. This topic works best as informative because it explains a real scientific tool that helps people every day, even though most people never see it. Students could research how weather balloons collect data, how weather services use this data to make forecasts, or how the data is used to track severe storms.

Icebergs: Icebergs are huge pieces of ice that break off from glaciers or ice shelves and float in the ocean, with most of the ice hidden under the water. This topic is important because icebergs can be dangerous for ships and because changes in iceberg size and number can connect to warming temperatures and melting ice in polar regions. This topic works as both informative and persuasive because students can explain what icebergs are and also discuss what people should do about the risks they create. Students could research famous ship accidents involving icebergs, how icebergs form and move, or how melting ice affects sea levels and coastal cities.

Curfews: A curfew is a rule that requires people to stay home after a certain time, such as at night or during an emergency. This topic is important because curfews are used during disasters, protests, or times of high crime, and they raise questions about how governments balance safety with freedom. This topic works best as persuasive because people often disagree about whether curfews prevent harm or whether they punish too many innocent people. Students could research curfews during natural disasters, curfews used in cities to reduce violence, or curfews for young people and whether they improve safety.

Sandstorms: Sandstorms happen when strong winds lift sand and dust into the air, creating thick clouds that reduce visibility and make the air hard to breathe. This topic is important because sandstorms can stop travel, damage buildings, harm health, and destroy crops, and some regions experience them often. This topic works best as informative because it explains a natural event with clear causes and real-world effects that communities must prepare for. Students could research how sandstorms form, how people protect lungs and eyes during storms, or how sandstorms affect farming and food prices.

Brain Implants: Brain implants are small devices placed in or near the brain to help treat medical problems, such as helping control shaking, reducing certain kinds of pain, or helping people communicate. This topic is important because brain implants can improve lives for some patients, but they also raise concerns about safety, long-term effects, privacy, and who controls the technology. This topic works as both informative and persuasive because students can explain what brain implants do and also discuss what rules should guide their use. Students could research implants used to treat Parkinson's disease, brain-computer devices that help people type or move a cursor, or ethical concerns about changing brain activity.

Asteroid Mining: Asteroid mining is the idea of sending spacecraft to asteroids to collect valuable materials, such as metals or water, and bring them back for use in space or on Earth. This topic is important because it could change space exploration by providing resources for fuel and building, but it also brings questions about cost, safety, and who is allowed to own space resources. This topic works best as persuasive because people disagree about whether asteroid mining is a smart investment or a risky project that could cause conflict. Students could research what materials asteroids contain, how mining might work in zero gravity, or how international rules could manage space resources fairly.

Pirates: Pirates are criminals who attack ships at sea to steal cargo, kidnap crew members, or demand money, and modern piracy still happens in some ocean regions today. This topic is important because piracy threatens global trade, raises shipping costs, and puts sailors in danger, which can affect prices and supply chains around the world. This topic works as both informative and persuasive because students can explain where piracy happens and also discuss what responses are most effective. Students could research modern piracy locations, how navies and shipping companies protect ships, or why piracy increases in some regions due to poverty or weak law enforcement.

Assign Platform Topics (February 2026):

Due Date: Sunday, February 22, 2026 – before going to bed Sunday night.

Assigned Platform Topics (February 2026): *Continued...*

Import Taxes: Import taxes are extra charges added to goods that come into a country from another country, which makes those imported goods cost more. This topic is important because import taxes can protect local businesses or punish unfair trade, but they can also raise prices for families and increase conflict between countries. This topic works best as persuasive because people disagree about whether import taxes help workers and companies or whether they harm consumers and the economy. Students could research how import taxes affect the price of everyday products, why countries use import taxes during trade disputes, or how import taxes influence jobs in local factories.

Quantum Computers: Quantum computers are a new kind of computer that uses special physics to solve certain problems much faster than normal computers can. This topic is important because quantum computers could help create new medicines, improve scientific research, and break or change current internet security systems. This topic works best as informative because it explains an important technology that is still developing but could strongly affect many areas of life. Students could research how quantum computers are different from normal computers, what problems quantum computers might solve first, or how quantum technology could force changes in online privacy and security.