There are many topics that could be developed into scholarly papers. To fulfill the Senior Writing requirement, you must write a paper of at least 15 pages on a current part of your major. It is best to pick something that you are really interested in and a topic you wish to spend an entire semester on so that you actually become an expert.

**HINTS for writing a good paper**

Find a topic or two or three that interests you. Do a computer search. Try the PubMed link or Google scholar. Is there enough information to write a paper?

Is there too much information? If so, figure out a way to limit your writing. It is key to get your instructors approval for your topic. This is your FIRST STEP--approval of a topic. Make an appointment to discuss the topic.

Do some background reading in a textbook and find a recent review on the key players in your topic. Key to this assignment is being current. In the end, you should teach your professor something new and you should come to an opinion about what the work to date is worth and what the next things to be learned are.

Talk to your instructor about your choice and interests. This person may be able to suggest a particular scientist's work for its contribution to the field. One way to start is to find a current really interesting paper. Read it and the relevant references it will refer you to, read those papers you need to understand--in order to appreciate the first paper you read.

Now write a review of the topic refocusing the topic in light of the new information. Introduce the topic and why it is important. Your reader is a fellow classmate.

Critique the major findings or the papers you have concentrated upon the most. Point out good and bad points if there are any. Comment on whether the authors have proven their point--and what remains to be done. You may propose simple experiments at this point--but get to the point. It is appropriate to provide a sketch of what the future holds and what major issues need to be resolved.