Can You Talk Climate?

Designing a Research Project:

1. Define a hypothesis and research proposal for your topic.
2. Identify who will benefit from your research and how.
3. Identify what data you will need to conduct the project and how to get it.
4. Figure out what tools or resources you will need for the experiment.

Project Ideas:

- Clean tap water in NYC Burroughs – brown water seen coming out of faucets (more information can be found [here](#))
- NYC plastic bag ban (more information can be found [here](#))
- How the oil industry impacts wildlife in the US (more information can be found [here](#))
- The impacts of rising temperatures and/or rainfall on US agriculture (more information can be found [here](#))

Heuristics and Biases:

- **Halo Effect**: The "don't judge a book by its cover" heuristic. This is the tendency for positive impressions of a person, company, brand or product in one particular area, such as appearance, to positively influence one's opinion or feelings in other areas. For example, an individual's opinion of another person tends to be influenced by their previous judgments of that person's performance or personality.
- **Affinity Bias**: This bias explains that individuals like to be with people who are similar to themselves, whether they have similar race or gender or if they are on the same soccer team, in the math club, or in the same theater production.
- **Anchoring Bias**: This is when an individual depends too heavily on an initial piece of information they received and subsequently makes judgements based on this information in decision making. Once this "anchor" information is set all future arguments, negotiations, estimates, and decisions are discussed in relation to the anchoring information.
- **Availability Heuristic**: This is a mental shortcut, a quick snap judgement, that is based on immediate examples (from personal experience) that come to an individual's mind when evaluating a certain topic, idea, method or decision.

Communicating Your Project:

Based on what you have learned about communication, biases, and heuristics, come up with a short, but well thought out proposal as to why you think your selected individual should adopt your project/results and make a change in your community.

Individuals and their Background Information:

- **Bill de Blasio** is an American politician who has served as the 109th mayor of New York City since 2014. A member of the Democratic Party, he was New York City's public advocate from 2010 to 2013. Born in Manhattan and raised in Cambridge, Massachusetts, de Blasio graduated from New York University and Columbia University. De Blasio's policy initiatives have included new de-escalation training for officers, reduced prosecutions for cannabis possession, implementation of police body cameras, and ending the post-9/11 surveillance program of Muslim residents. In his first term, he implemented free universal Pre-K in the city. De Blasio has called attention to what he calls stark economic inequality in New York City, which he described as a "tale of two cities" during his first campaign. He has supported socially liberal and progressive policies in regard to the city's economy, urban planning, public education, police relations, and privatization. [Wikipedia]

- **Susan Collins** is an American politician serving as the senior United States Senator for Maine (Republican). Born in Caribou, Maine, Collins is a graduate of St. Lawrence University in New York. Collins was first elected to the United States Senate in 1996 and still holds office. Collins, along with senator Lisa Murkowski, is frequently described as one of the moderate Republicans in the Senate, and therefore often a pivotal vote [Wikipedia]. Throughout her time in the U.S. Senate, Senator Collins has worked to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, spur the creation of green energy jobs, and reduce dangerous dependence on foreign oil – while retaining important American manufacturing jobs. As a member of the Senate Appropriations and the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committees, Senator Collins continues to work to ensure that Congress provides robust funding and targeted legislation for the most effective educational programs aimed at helping teachers and students. [https://www.collins.senate.gov/]

- **Jimmy Fallon** is an American comedian, actor, television host, singer, writer, and producer. In high school, Jimmy was a performer in most stage productions, and was twice a class social director. He graduated in 1992 and, after thoughts of being a priest, attended The College of Saint Rose in Albany, New York, where he was a computer science major before switching to communications in his senior year. Fallon would often board buses from his aunt's house in Fort Hamilton to perform sets at Caroline's Comedy Club in Times Square. He was commissioned to join NBC's Saturday Night Live as a cast member in 1998, fulfilling a lifelong dream. Fallon remained on SNL for six years between, and left briefly for the film industry in 2004. Following his film career, Fallon returned to television as the host of Late Night with Jimmy Fallon on NBC studios in 2009 and eventually The Tonight Show in 2014. Some of his famous skits include #Hashtags, Thankyou Notes, and Tonight Show Superlatives. Fallon has written four books, is a NY Yankees fan, and is a talented musician. [Wikipedia]

- **Marisol Rosales** is the Executive Superintendent for Manhattan, Districts 1-6. Rosales began her career as a physical education teacher, and later became an assistant principal and principal before becoming a network leader. She served as principal of Bedford Stuyvesant Preparatory Academy, and has been superintendent of Manhattan High Schools since 2012, where she currently oversees 47 high schools. She also served as Executive Director of Leadership in the Office of Leadership at the DOE central office [https://nycrubberroomreporter.blogspot.com/]. Rosales frequents twitter and posts about high school basketball games, as well as hockey and other sports. She is also passionate about diversity and student equity, along with arts and culture in the schools.