Global connections and global ruptures
Possible topic areas include, but are not confined to, international law; nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons; war and peace in the 21st century; threats to democratic institutions; nationalism; national sovereignty; migration and immigration; refugee crises; human rights; race; gender; religion; access to education; demographic changes; challenges to cultural legacies; national security and civil liberties; poverty; terrorism; and translation, transmission, and transformation of cultures.

Strengthening U.S. democracy and exploring new narratives
Possible topic areas include, but are not confined to, access to education, civic participation, the voting process, political polarization, the party system, migration and immigration, inequality, the widening poverty-wealth gap, religion, gender, race, individual rights and privacy, forms of cultural expression, incarceration, judicial and criminal justice reform, rule of law, and the public good.

Environments, natural and human
Possible topic areas include, but are not confined to, political and economic stability, global climate change, health, inequality, human rights, defining the Anthropocene, ethical implications of environmental issues, and literary and cultural expressions of environmental change.

Technological and cultural creativity—potential and perils
Possible topic areas include, but are not confined to, cybersecurity, big data, machine learning, artificial intelligence, the impact of technology on privacy, civic participation, impact of traditional and social media, accountability of tech industry, challenges to and varieties of individual expression, the power of imagery, approaches to death and dying, cognitive science and human creativity, definitions of the human and the post-human, and ethical issues raised by medical and scientific research.