Example of a developed presentation concept

[Context: You're interested in the environment and climate change. As you've gathered research, you became particularly interested in why people perceive the problem differently and how this impacts collective action to address the issue. Specifically, you saw evidence that age is related to perceptions about climate change. As a result, you've done research to understand how different generations respond to scientific concerns about climate change and how these views impact legislation.]

1. **What is the topic you've identified and what should we know about it to understand your research?**

   <u>Generational reactions to climate change</u>

   - Fields including psychology, gerontology, sociology, and climate science have presented findings about how age influences the way one might perceive climate change.
   - Researchers found that age-related differences in perception are correlated to socioeconomic factors, political affiliation, level of education, area of residence.
   - Differences in generational attitudes are also creating tensions between younger and older generations, especially in media coverage. With increasingly severe weather and massive insect and bird die-offs occurring in the past two years, not to mention dire predictions for the future of our planet's ecosystem, it is vital that we understand not only what's happening with climate change and why, but how our perceptions might be influencing action (or inaction).
   - Sources of evidence: opinion polls, studies of attitudes about climate change, media coverage of generational differences (Greta Thunberg vs. Sen. Manchin).
   - One aspect that doesn't receive as much attention, but is important, is looking at how younger people can effectively persuade older people to change their opinions and actions about climate change. There is also research suggesting that older generations can teach younger generations using their historical experiences of dramatic changes to their local climates during their lifetimes. You will review research about this in your upcoming report.

2. What subtopic/area of conversation interests you most regarding this topic?

<u>You are most interested in how people perceive climate change and how age influences these perceptions.</u> We are all stakeholders in the future of our planet's ecosystem. Younger people, especially, stand to face devastating consequences resulting from climate change. Given that the effects are cumulative and worsening, time is of the essence for our response. Stakeholders may lose health, wealth, property, etc. These losses are, in part, related to one's age and social status. Currently, older voters and political leaders are more reticent to acknowledge climate change and take decisive action to respond to it. Based on research, this may be influenced by how older people perceive the risks and benefits of responding to climate change. Meanwhile, younger populations around the world are more likely to respond to climate change with frustration, activism, and pressure on governments to act. This is leading to intergenerational conflict and exacerbating political divisions. If we fail to address the problem, we will all suffer negative consequences that could be mitigated with prompt action.

3. What is the debatable question you've identified and in what ways do you hope to contribute to this conversation in your research paper?

Debatable Question:
Why do older generations and younger generations tend to view climate change differently, and how might we bridge this gap to promote more decisive action to respond to the global, existential threat humans face?

You have found research indicating that young people can influence the attitudes and actions of older people about climate change. You'd like to help your readers understand why the differences in perception exist, how this affects our ability to act, and what we might do to bridge the perception gap. You will apply research from psychologists, educators, climate scientists, and political scientists to investigate the differences in perception and explore potential solutions.