**Name:** Abigail Morris

**Working Title:** Victim Shifting in Conversations of Worker’s Rights

**Topic:** How media and politicians demonize the working poor for wanting a living wage. Their tactics convince the employers and members of the public who already make more than minimum wage that they are the real victims in this struggle.

**Connection to *The* *Last Ballad*:** The media and politicians had much of the Gaston County convinced that they and the mill owners were the actual victims.

**Why did you choose this topic?** Because of this clip from the Daily Show with Trevor Noah: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LZ3P1sv9jE

**What is your position on this?** I believe that the public needs to better understand how the media and politicians manipulate them into believing that paying the working poor a living wage will somehow make the lives of everyone else harder.

**What narrow and specific audience would benefit from hearing your argument?** Readers of the Roanoke Beacon Newspaper (Washington County).

**Why would that audience benefit?** Because many readers (and influential Washington County residents) are either opposed to an increase in minimum wage because they view it as a leftist idea of equality for unskilled laborers or because they believe the “Fightfor15” folks just want to profit at the expense of everyone else.

**What response are you hoping for from your chosen audience?** I’m hoping they will become more resistant to media and political influence that actively makes the privileged feel victimized by the working poor.

**Working Thesis:** Political rhetoric perpetuated by media outlets encourages unnecessary socio-economic class divisions by convincing middle class Americans and small business owners that they will be the ultimate victims in the fight for living wages.

**Briefly explain what you currently know about your topic:**