

The views expressed in the MH topics do not necessarily reflect the beliefs of Stoa, the Board, or the Speech Committee.  
Mars Hill is intended for competitors 14 and older due to some mature themes and elements included in the content.

\*Indicates new topic

## **Current Film and Television (last 5 years):**

1. \**Andor* S1. Ep10 "One Way Out" (TV-14) 2022
2. \**Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* (PG-13) 2022
3. \**The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* (PG-13) 2023
4. \**Elemental* (PG) 2023
5. *Free Guy* (PG-13) 2021
6. *Dune* (PG-13) 2021
7. *Top Gun: Maverick* (PG-13) 2022
8. *Minari* (PG-13) 2020
9. *Belfast* (PG-13) 2021
10. *Encanto* (PG) 2021
11. *The Farewell* (PG) 2019
12. *Knives Out* (PG-13) 2019

## **Classic Film and Television:**

1. \**Over the Garden Wall* (TV-PG) 2014
2. \**I love Lucy* S2. Ep 1 "Job Switching" (TV-Y) 1952
3. \**The Song of the Sea* (PG) 2014
4. *Minority Report* (PG-13) 2002
5. *The Office* S6, Ep 10 "Murder" (PG) 2009
6. *Pinocchio* (G) 1940
7. *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (G) 1951
8. *The Hunt for Red October* (PG) 1990
9. *42* (PG-13) 2013
10. *Avatar: The Last Airbender* S1. Ep 16 "The Southern Raiders" (TV-Y7) 2008
11. *The Wind Rises* (PG-13) 2014
12. *A Silent Voice: The Movie* (NR) 2016

## **Current Music:**

1. \*"We Didn't Start the Fire" (Fall Out Boy)
2. \*"Orange Juice" (Noah Kahan)
3. \*"Jesus in LA" (Alec Benjamin)
4. \*"Mary" (Big Thief)
5. \*"What Was I Made For?" (Billie Eilish)
6. "The Search" (NF)
7. "World's Smallest Violin" (AJR)
8. "Lydia Wears a Cross" (Julia Jacklin)
9. "Anti-Hero" (Taylor Swift)
10. "Neon Gravestone" (21 Pilots)
11. "Matilda" (Harry Styles)
12. "Home" (Vince Staples)

## **Classic Music:**

1. \*"Greatest Love of All" (Whitney Houston)
2. \*"Strawberry Blond" (Mitski)
3. \*"Only the Good Die Young" (Billy Joel)
4. \*"Fire and Rain" (James Taylor)
5. "Lean on Me" (Bill Withers)
6. "Daniel" (Elton John)
7. "Hard to Say I'm Sorry" (Chicago)
8. "We Belong" (Pat Benatar)
9. "Strange Fruit" (Billie Holiday)
10. "You've Really Got a Hold on Me" (Smokey Robinson & The Miracles)
11. "Feeling Good" (Nina Simone)
12. "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" (Simon & Garfunkel)

## Literature:

### Prose

1. \**Cry, the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton
2. *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot
3. *Revolution Is Not a Dinner Party* by Ying Chang Compestine
4. *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding
5. “The Magic Shop” by HG Wells
6. “The Veldt” by Ray Bradbury
7. *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
8. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
9. *Maus* by Art Spiegelman

### Poetry

10. \*“A Poison Tree” by William Blake
11. \*“The Wasteland” by TS Eliot
12. “Hymn to Intellectual Beauty” by Percy Bysshe Shelley

## The Arts:

### Plays and Musicals

1. \**The Merchant of Venice* by William Shakespeare
2. *An Enemy of the People* by Henrik Ibsen
3. *West Side Story* by Arthur Laurents
4. *The Music Man* by Meredith Wilson
5. *Fences* by August Wilson

### Visual Art

6. \*[Strike Fast, Dance Lightly: Artists on Boxing](#)
7. \*[Cut Paper](#) by Sachiko Abe
8. \*[The Parthenon of Books](#) by Marta Minujín
9. \*[Can't Help Myself](#) by Sun Yuan and Peng Yu
10. [Fallen Angel](#) by Alexandre Cabanel
11. [right?](#) by Banu Cennetoglu
12. [Officer of the Hussars](#) by Kehinde Wiley

## Current Media Topics:

### Ted Talks

1. \*[The Rise of the Trauma Essay in College Applications](#) by Tina Yong

### Podcasts

2. \* *The Rise and Fall of Mars Hill* Episode 13 “[CT Reports on Itself](#)” by *Christianity Today*
3. \**Your Undivided Attention* “[The Promise and Peril of Open Source AI with Elizabeth Seger and Jeffrey Ladish](#)” by Center for Humane Technology
4. *The Jordan B. Peterson Podcast* Episode 319 “[Detransition: The Wounds That Won’t Heal: Chloe Cole](#)”
5. *Honestly with Bari Weiss* “[The Iranian Regime’s Most Wanted Woman](#)”
6. *This American Life* Episode 680: The Weight of Words “[Go to the Mattresses](#)” by Elna Baker -

### Short Films

7. \*“[He Gets Us](#)” (Superbowl ad)
8. \*“[Dove Real Beauty Sketches](#)”
9. “[Is Gen Z Misinformed? Conservative Teens vs. Liberals vs. Moderates: Middle Ground](#)”
10. [If Anything Happens - I Love You](#) (PG) 2020

### Spoken Word

11. “[The Hill We Climb](#)” by Amanda Gorman
12. “[Every 40 Seconds](#)” by Patrick Roche

## Retired Topics 2024-2025 Season

### Retired Current Visual Media

1. *Mandalorian season 1* (TV-14) 2019
2. *SpiderMan No Way Home* (PG-13) 2021
3. *Hichki* (NR) 2018
4. *Soul* (PG) 2019

### Retired Classic Visual Media

1. *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood* Season 1 Episodes 1-2 (TV-14) 2009
2. *12 Angry Men* (NR) 1957
3. *The Seventh Seal* (NR) 1957

### Retired Current Music Lyrics

1. “Grow As We Go” (Ben Platt)
2. “Higher Power” (Cold Play)
3. “Always” (BTS)
4. “Harmony Hall” (Vampire Weekend)
5. “Everything I Wanted” (Billie Eilish)

### Retired Classic Music Lyrics

1. “Accentuate the Positive” (Ella Fitzgerald)
2. “My Way” (Frank Sinatra)
3. “Vienna” (Billy Joel)
4. “A Day in the Life” (Beatles)

### Retired Literature

1. *1984* by George Orwell
2. *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie
3. “Rime of the Ancient Mariner” by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

### Retired The Arts

1. *Henry V* by William Shakespeare
2. *Hadestown* by Anais Mitchell
3. *Dorrance Dance - Blues Project*
4. *Nobody Likes Me* by iHeart
5. *The Persistence of Memory* by Salvador Dali

### Retired Current Cultural Media

1. *The Danger of a Single Story* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
2. *The Power of Vulnerability* by Brene Brown
3. *This is Water* by David Foster Wallace
4. *The Social Dilemma* (PG-13) 2020
5. “To This Day” by Shane Koyczan