For my creative honors thesis, I wanted to delve into the issues that have me the most passionate and argumentative. I wished to discuss questions to which I do not have the answers and ask the reader what she or he thinks. To do this, I wrote a novel of approximately 63,000 words entitled *The Glass Country*. This social commentary follows five main characters through modern-day New York City. Each character works in media and has her or his own place in commenting on journalism, women’s issues, race, politics and class.

To complement the novel, I wrote a research paper called “This Is How It’s Always Going To Be: New York City in the Post-9/11 Novel.” My research focuses on common themes throughout New York novels written after the attacks of September 11, 2001. I looked through the lenses of *The Emperor’s Children* by Claire Messud, *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt and *Free Food For Millionaires* by Min Jin Lee. These novels paint a compelling picture of New York as a character within the post-modern literary landscape. The themes that the three books — along with uncountable other novels in this so-called genre — seem to possess include New York as a place of beauty, a place of status and a place of fear. All three can trace their roots back to 9/11 and the altered mindset it gave New Yorkers.

The two components of my thesis work together to better understand New York and American cultures as a whole. Through my writing, I want to continue the conversation of a society that mistrusts the media and mistreats women.