Some possible topics for your research paper

1. Relation between Arabic language variation/change and sociological variables, e.g.,
   - Arabic language variation/change and ethnicity
   - Arabic language variation/change and religion
   - Arabic language variation/change and urbanization
   - Arabic language variation/change and gender
   - Arabic language variation/change and age
2. Code-switching between Arabic and foreign languages.
3. Code-switching between MSA and dialectal Arabic.
4. Arabic language policies/Role of Arabic academies.
5. Issues of language and identity for Arabic speakers (either in the Arab world or abroad).
6. Arabic and nationalism.
7. Colonization and its effects on the sociolinguistic situation in the Arab world.
8. Language contact between Arabic and other languages.
9. Superstratum and substratum effects between Arabic and minority languages in the Arab world.
10. Diglossia in political discourse (e.g., in the Arab Spring).
11. Diglossia in religious discourse.
12. Diglossia in literature.
13. Diglossia in educational settings (finding resources may be an issue).
14. Diglossia in journalism (finding resources may be an issue).
15. Diglossia in … [pick your favorite domain of life].
16. Sociolinguistic implications of terms of address/kin term in Arabic dialects.
17. Regional Arabic language variation. Choose an Arabic dialect, read about it in some detail, and report on it in a paper. Be advised, though, that you will encounter a good amount of linguistic terminology that we have not talked about in this class, so you should expect to spend some time to understand these terms.

General guidelines on content and format

(1) Make sure you give examples to illustrate any linguistic facts you cite. When you do, make sure you provide the examples in phonetic transcription on one line, followed by a morpheme-by-morpheme gloss on a second line, followed by an English translation of the example. You can follow the convention of the textbook in this regard.

(2) For citation, linguists typically use the APA (American Psychological Association) parenthetical citation system. When citing a reference, simply write the last name of the author(s), followed by the publication date of the reference between parentheses, e.g.:

   In Chomsky (1965), a distinction is made between three levels of adequacy for grammatical theory: observational adequacy, descriptive adequacy, and explanatory adequacy.
(3) If you are quoting exact words, then add the page number(s) after the publication date, e.g., Chomsky (1970:33). In general, though, you should avoid quoting exact words, unless there is a good reason to. Instead, paraphrase the ideas you have gathered from sources in your own words.

(4) Because this is an in-text citation system, you should not use footnotes to provide bibliographic information for your sources. Instead, make a list of these sources at the end of the paper under the heading ‘References.’ You are expected to consult at least 4 different references (not including the textbook for this class) in writing your paper.

(5) Footnotes (or endnotes, it’s up to you) can be still used in this system, but mainly to provide any additional information that you think should be helpful to the reader, without having to interrupt the flow of the main text.

(6) Use a Times New Roman font size of 12, with double spacing. You may use either footnotes or endnotes. The paper should be 8-page long, excluding the reference page(s).

(7) Start working on your paper early (as in NOW). Do not procrastinate. Remember that our library may not have all the resources you need, and you will need to borrow some references through the Inter-Library Loan system, which takes a few days to deliver the books/articles. So, it is important to plan for your research paper as early as possible. Here is a suggested timeline that may help you from now to the end of the semester:
   a. April 9\textsuperscript{th}: Deadline to choose your dialect.
   b. By April 16\textsuperscript{th}: Make sure you have a list of references ready. Borrow the ones we have at the Davis Library, and order the ones we don't have via Inter-Library Loan. You should dedicate a regular time for your research paper, say 3 hours a week to read the sources and have a clear idea for what you plan to discuss in the paper. Take notes as you’re reading.
   c. By April 23\textsuperscript{rd}: You should have a clear outline for your paper by then. The outline should indicate a list of the issues that you’ll be covering in the paper. Start writing the draft.
   d. By May 2\textsuperscript{nd}: Have your first draft finished by this date. Spend the following few days proofreading and revising your draft.
   e. By May 6\textsuperscript{th}: Prepare an 8-minute presentation on your topic to be given in the last week of classes.
   f. By May 13\textsuperscript{th}: Make any needed changes in the paper that may come up as a result of your presentation, proofread the paper one final time, and submit it to the instructor by 12noon.

(8) Should you have questions, or face challenges writing the paper, do come and talk to me, as EARLY as possible.