

## Thesis Research Paper/English Author AP English 2005

You will be planning, researching, organizing, and writing a research paper on an English author from 1830 – present. You will have to draw conclusions or make judgements about the writer's life, work, importance, and PROVE it with your research.

Your Author \_\_\_\_\_.

Research your author completely. This will include world history (time period), his/her life history, literary works, and importance. Don't forget to incorporate quotes from the author's writings, including letters, diaries, and comments of others about his/her writing, etc.

You can not possibly accomplish all this work during the class hour, so it is **CRITICAL** to use every minute of class time wisely. If you want individualized help, you'll need to allow me to give that help to others as well. This means you must work independently to use MHS print reference sources, South Dakota Library Network, Mitchell Public Library or DWU Library, the Internet, etc. I am always available before and after school. Set up a conference if you feel you need extended consultation time; however, your procrastination does not count as an emergency with my time! Don't wait – start now. Organize and manage your time wisely – you will have to do that on your own in college!

### 1. Research and Notetaking

- ☆ Locate and use 10 sources minimum for note taking. Over-dependence on two or three sources will be penalized!
  - ☆ Bibliography should reflect at least **two scholarly magazine** articles not in our library – may be borrowed from State Library, Mitchell Public Library, or DWU, ProQuest, etc.
  - ☆ Bibliography must reflect at least **ONE** book located and borrowed through **SDLN**.
  - ☆ Use **Britannica or Americana Encyclopedia** as preliminary background. Although several encyclopedias may be consulted, only one will count in the required Works Cited.
  - ☆ Bibliography should reflect use of **standard reference works** on English authors/literature. Use Masterplots, Reader's Encyclopedia, Contemporary Novelists, Masterplots, World Authors CD (in library), Oxford Companion to English Literature, etc.
  - ☆ Bibliography should reflect search of and use of **authoritative** Internet sources. While the Internet may be an excellent source, only **five** websites may count in the total of 10 sources. (This does not mean articles from magazines on Proquest, etc.)
  - ☆ Bibliography may include video, film, laser disc, personal interview, etc.

**Bib cards** for 10 sources: \_\_\_\_\_ points

**Notes** on sources: \_\_\_\_\_ points

Note cards must have slugs, source and page #s to receive credit. Do NOT mix unrelated content on one note card!

**Working outline** to guide research: \_\_\_\_\_ points

**Temporary Works Cited:** \_\_\_\_\_ points

Note ILL (Interlibrary Loan) item(s) with \*\*

### 2. Organize and Theorize

- ☆ Draw conclusions or make judgements about the writer's life, work, importance, and PROVE it with your research.

- ☆ Incorporate quotes from the author's writings, including letters, diaries, and comments of others about his/her writing, etc. Add personal evaluation/opinion, but **support with facts** and quotes. (DO NOT USE "I think"! ) example:

Thesis: In their love of adventure, their strong spirits, and their personal sacrifices, Deb Everson's women characters reflect Everson's own life experiences and the important life choices of Everson herself. (Remember. This is your opinion – but your main points have to prove your thesis!)

- ☆ **Outline and thesis must be submitted and approved before paper can be written.** \_\_\_\_\_ points  
You will receive more information/handouts on thesis writing.
- ☆ **Notecards must be coded to the outline, e.g. III, A, etc.** \_\_\_\_\_ points

### 3. **Write and Edit**

- ☆ Write a documented 5-7 page (includes body of paper - not outline, works cited and consulted) research paper following MLA attribution.
- ☆ All quotes/"non-generic" facts must be attributed. Paraphrasing is best unless the quote is "stunning." **Where authoritative sources like well-known scholars are being quoted, include the scholar's name and book title in the text of the paper.** E.g. Carlos Baker describes Hemingway's mental depression in his definitive biography *Hemingway, A Life Story*.
- ☆ First draft **must be in on due date to receive credit.** First draft **must have** sources, quotes, works cited, works consulted etc. to be critiqued by peer (in class). Instructor will skim and make suggestions for improvement on content and organization. Students are responsible for correction of mechanics and usage.

### 4. **Final Product**

- ☆ Edited, polished 5-7 page paper in MLA format.  
(Plus Works Cited/Consulted, outline in sentence form.)  
Hand in all note and bib cards rubber-banded and labeled, first draft with critique and final draft in pocket folder.

### 5. **Author Presentation**

- ☆ Present 4-5 minute overview of author's place in British literature, life, and work by appropriate use of visuals, video, film clips, Power Point, creative dramatic presentation, etc.
- ☆ Prepare one, two-sided, **typed** handout that includes:
  - ☆ Time line of author that incorporates historical information and major literary accomplishments.
  - ☆ Summary on biographical overview
  - ☆ Basic conclusions
  - ☆ At least one small illustration
  - ☆ Annotated bibliography of author's major works. Use Masterplots or other reference for brief annotations of two or three sentences each.
  - ☆ Quotations indicating typical writing style/subject matter and quotations indicating author's own thoughts or those of others about the author.