

Research Paper Overview

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The final goal of this project is to produce a well-written research paper based on a critical literary analysis which will:

- Demonstrate the ability to use the writing process to complete a critical assignment.
- Analyze selected primary sources; do not review nor summarize the plots.
- Prepare research paper, using a variety of secondary sources from school database.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze secondary sources to defend thesis statement.
- Synthesize information from a variety of sources into a new document.

SECTIONS

01. Gather preliminary resources and construct paper. < week 10-13

Library Database Orientation < Wednesday 03-24-10

02. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. < due week 10

Lecture: How to declare a thesis < Monday 03-08-10

03. Generate draft of approximately 300 words. < week 12

04. Generate further in-depth analysis of research. < week 13-15

05. Generate a second draft, total three or more pages. < week 15

06. Present ten page document: digital *and* print versions. < due final week

SOURCES

- 5 academic journals (from school database)
- 5 physical books: reference or otherwise

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Ten full pages, *plus* an additional work cited page; additional appendix is optional.
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template

final project

THESIS POSSIBILITIES

Below are sample thesis paper topics. Choose one as a focus for your paper, manipulating the observations to suit your purposes. *Find critical sources supporting your observations on the texts.*

1. Analyze the victims in the following stories: Jane in “The Yellow Wallpaper,” the Princess in “The Goosegirl,” and Homer in “A Rose for Emily.”
Each character is placed in similar situations of passivity with widely-differing results. Form an opinion regarding the various actions and motivations of the *female* characters.
2. Analyze Ray Bradbury’s “The October Game” with E. Poe’s “The Black Cat.”
Consider how Bradbury successfully mirrors his techniques for his own modern protagonist. Consider Poe’s primary goal in the story: is he seeking to generate a Gothic tale or focus on the psychological development of the narrator?
Form an opinion regarding the actions and motivations of the narrators.
3. Analyze Nathaniel Hawthorne’s character Beatrice in “Rappaccini’s Daughter” with James Joyce’s protagonist in “Eveline.” What similar or dissimilar techniques do the authors use to motivate their female protagonists? Form an opinion regarding the passive actions and motivations of the main characters. Consider Hawthorne’s “The Birthmark” for additional material.
4. Free-for-all: Compose your own thesis statement regarding character actions and motivations from the following authors. (You must include an additional outside short story reading from one source.)

E.A. Poe

Charlotte Gillman

Richard Wright

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ray Bradbury

William Faulkner

James Joyce

Brothers Grimm