

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.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyze an audience and select an appropriate written communication style. (*No personal voice.*)
- Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of sources.
- Synthesize information from a variety of sources into a new document.
- Analyze the selected stories: do not review, nor summarize the plots.

SECTIONS

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|---|--------------------------|
| 01. Article Synopsis | <i>due: 10.29</i> |
| 02. Declare a topic and thesis statement. | <i>due: 11.05</i> |
| 03. Tentative Works Cited Page | <i>due: 11.05</i> |
| 04. Turn in eight-to-ten page document: | <i>due: 11.26</i> |

REQUIRED SOURCES

- Four academic journals from school database (turned in with the final document)

Only utilize the following sources:

- Academic Search Complete (EBSCO), JSTOR Journal Archive, or Literature Resource Guide (Gale)
- eLibrary (ProQuest)
- **Avoid** using Wikipedia, Ask, Bing, Google, or any other commercial-based site.
- Remember the class text book is your required primary source for all stories.

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Eight-ten full pages (2,000-2,500 words), *plus* an additional work cited page
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template

final project

THESIS POSSIBILITIES

Below are sample topics. Choose one as a focus for your paper, manipulating the observations to suit your purposes. *Utilize critical analysis to support your theories.*

1. Analyze the victims in the following stories: the Old Man in “The Tell-Tale Heart” and Homer in “A Rose for Emily.” Each character is placed in similar situations of passivity with similar results. Form an opinion regarding the motivations of the dominant oppressors in each story. What similar or dissimilar techniques do the authors use to motivate fear in their audience?
Can a strong similarity be seen between Emily and the Unnamed Narrator?
2. 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 in conjunction with their male counterparts.
3. Compare the relationships between Hawthorne’s Giovanni and Beatrice with Hemingway’s Jig and the American. How similar are the controlling aspects of the male figures in the story? What makes the men so passive-aggressive?
Can it be argued that the female figures are more in control than it is seen?
4. Seek a comparison between Poe’s Unnamed Narrator and Sophocles’ Creon. Both men attempt to control a second party for a sense of “justified” revenge. How do the stories portray these angry characters? What are their unique goals?
5. Develop a connection between Sophocles’ Antigone and Faulkner’s Emily. What similar characteristics exist between the two individuals? What motivates the characters to react in the fashion they do? Is Antigone as equally insane as one can perceive Miss Emily?
6. Free-for-all: Compose your own thesis statement regarding character actions and motivations from any pair of the following authors. *Do not repeat previous assignments.*

Kate Chopin

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ernest Hemingway

William Faulkner

Charlotte Gilman

James Joyce

E. A. Poe

Sophocles