

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.)
- Prepare a research paper, demonstrating 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. Gather preliminary resources and construct paper. | < week 10-13 |
| 02. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. | < <i>due week 11</i> |
| 03. Generate draft of approximately 300 words. | < week 12 |
| 04. Generate in-depth analysis of research. | < week 13-15 |
| 05. Generate a second draft, total three or more pages. | < week 15 |
| 06. Present five page document: <i>print versions</i> . | < <i>due final week</i> |

SOURCES

- 5 academic journals (from school database)
- 3 books
- 2 certified web sites

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Five 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 analysis that support your theories.*

1. Analyze the victims in the following stories: Jane in “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Georgiana in “The Birthmark,” 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 successful 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.
(Talk to me prior to selecting this topic.)
3. Analyze Richard Wright’s character Dave in “The Man Who Was Almost A Man” with James Joyce’s narrator in “Araby.” What similar or dissimilar techniques do they authors use to motivate their protagonists? What other short story by Wright or Joyce support your theories? Form an opinion regarding the actions and motivations of the main characters.
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

Kate Chopin

Charlotte Gillman

William Faulkner

Richard Wright

James Joyce

Nathaniel Hawthorne