

# 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

01. Gather preliminary resources and construct preliminary introduction
02. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. < due 04.11
03. Turn in eight to ten page document on-line *and* print. < due 04.23

## SOURCES

- five academic journals (from school database) (*secondary*)
- text book (*primary: encouraged to seek additional copies of original texts*)
- encouraged use of resources from historical books or encyclopedias (*not Wikipedia*)

## DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Eight to ten full pages, *plus* an additional work cited page
- Entire paper is double spaced, following MLA standard template

**final project**

### RESEARCH POSSIBILITIES

Below are sample paper topics. Choose one as a focus for your paper, manipulating the observations to suit your purposes. Find critical analysis that support your theories and back your opinions with evidence from the material.

1. Compare two private poems of Anne Bradstreet with two public poems of Phillis Wheatley. Can it be argued that both are subjects of servitude? Is Bradstreet as much as a “controlled” figure as Wheatley? Can you find common themes or approaches the two women utilize in common—or does the fact one was of a reserved class and the other from the slave class control the balance?

2. Compare three private poems of Emily Dickinson with three Anne Bradstreet poems. Neither expected their work to be published, yet in both cases circumstances proved otherwise. How are their ideas regarding God and Religion presented? Are their individual views on mortality and immortality similar?

3. Compare the poet narrators in Walt Whitman’s “Song of Myself” and Anne Bradstreet’s “Contemplations”— how much alike are these two voices? How similar are their themes and their characterizations? Do the controlled aspects of the female-public voice of Bradstreet echo the intentions of the openly male-public Whitman? Explain how images of God, society, and religion factor into their themes.

4. Compare the intentions of Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne— propose why Poe is easily commercialized, even today, whereas Hawthorne is considered difficult for a modern reader. How do they individually use the Gothic ideals in “Usher” and “Black Veil”?

5. *Creative*: generate an American folk-tale / ghost story emulating the styles of Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, or Nathaniel Hawthorne. (*Discuss with me first*).