

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. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. | < due 07.30.10 |
| 02. Tentative Works Cited Page | < due 08.02.10 |
| 03. Turn in seven page document: | < due 08.09.10 |

SOURCES

- 5 academic journals from school database (e-mail copies to instructor)
- 3 books (includes class text book)

DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Seven full pages, *plus* an additional work cited page
- 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.* (Articles will be e-mailed to me prior to production of paper.)

1. Analyze the victims in the following stories: Jane in “The Yellow Wallpaper,” Georgiana in “The Birthmark,” and the Princess in “The Goose Girl.”
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. What symbols exist in the work? What possible interpretations of the images exist? Why do the various authors use common concepts for describing passivity? In what ways do all three women transform? What does this tell you about their role in the story and the authors’ agendas?
2. Analyze the controlling protagonists in the following stories: Alymer in “The Birthmark,” Montresor in “A Cask of Amontillado” and Emily in “A Rose for Emily.” Poe’s story is clearly considered a strong example of the Gothic genre, whereas Faulkner’s is labelled part of the Southern Gothic genre.
How similar are their themes and their main characters?
Form an opinion regarding both characters sanity.
Explain how guilt, or lack of guilt, factors into their actions.
If Emily is a victim of society or circumstance, can Montresor and Alymer be considered the same? Why or why not?
3. Free-for-all: Compose your own thesis statement regarding character actions and motivations from any of the following authors. (*Must select two stories.*)

Edgar Allan Poe

Kate Chopin

Charlotte Gillman

William Faulkner

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Brothers Grim

Richard Wright

James Joyce