

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. Gather preliminary resources and construct intro. | < week 3 |
| 02. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. | < <i>due Monday, week 4</i> |
| 03. Generate draft of approximately 300-500 words. | < Tues., week 4 |
| 04. Begin in-depth analysis of research. | < Wed., week 4 |
| 05. Generate a second draft, total three or more pages. | < Thurs., week 4 |
| 06. Present five page document: | < <i>due final week</i> |

SOURCES

- 5 academic journals (from school database)
- 3 books (can include class text book)

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 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.
2. Analyze Ray Bradbury’s “The October Game” with E. Poe’s “The Tell-Tale Heart.” 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 the controlling protagonists in the following stories: 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 apart 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.
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. Talk to me prior.)*

Edgar Allan Poe

Kate Chopin

Charlotte Gillman

William Faulkner

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Brothers Grim