

# 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 use an appropriate academic communication style.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of literary sources from database.
- Synthesize information from a variety of literary sources into a new document.
- Analyze the selected stories: do not review, nor summarize, the plots.

## SECTIONS

1. Gather preliminary resources. < 12.30.09
2. Formally declare a topic and thesis statement. < due 12.31.09
3. Submit five articles from database on your topic. < due 01.02.10
  - Full articles must be e-mailed in PDF format.
  - Articles must be from appropriate database.
4. Turn in preliminary Work Cited Page with five sources < due 01.04.10
5. Present document: both digital *and* print versions < due final day

## TOTAL SOURCES (8)

- 5 academic journals (from school database/e-mail PDF copies to instructor)
- 3 books (include class text book, material from net-library, reference books)

## DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS (10 PAGES)

- Ten 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 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 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.
3. 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.)*

Edgar Allan Poe

Kate Chopin

Charlotte Gillman

William Faulkner

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Virginia Woolf

Richard Wright

James Joyce