

# 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 08.03.11
03. Turn in six to seven page document on-line and print. < due 08.09.11

## SOURCES

- 4 academic journals (from school database) (*secondary resources*)
- text book (*primary resources: do encourage seeking additional copies of texts*)
- encourage use of resources from historical books or encyclopedias

## DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Six-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 and back your opinions with evidence from the material.

1. Compare the private poems of Anne Bradstreet with the public poems of Phillis Wheatley. The only major commonality between the two is apparently their gender. 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 the private poems of Emily Dickinson with Anne Bradstreet. Neither expected their work to be published, yet in both cases circumstances proved otherwise. Do they both have similar ideals regarding God and Religion? 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. Free-for-all: Compose your own thesis statement regarding character actions and motivations from the following authors. (Talk to me prior about material.)

Roger Williams / Walt Whitman Washington Irving / Edgar Allan Poe

Emily Dickinson / Anne Bradstreet Phillis Wheatley / Frederick Douglass