

## AP ENGLISH IV RESEARCH PAPER SPRING 2005

### **PHILOSOPHY:**

The AP English IV research paper encompasses the research process and culminates in the creation of a final term paper that assimilates concepts from the required course content combined with an area of personal interest. This paper should engage you and your readers; thus, choosing the topic that is right for you will result in a paper that is different than anyone else's paper. Even if you select a similar topic, the execution will reflect you, your interests, and your writing style. The style of your paper should be formal, persuasive, and polished. To ensure the integrity of your writing, reread section 1.8 of the MLA Handbook regarding plagiarism. The paper submitted to your teacher will be accompanied by a signed promise of its originality.

### **TOPIC SUGGESTIONS:** The Senior Paper – AP English 4

- Build around one or more concepts, thematic or literary (archetypes, point of view, etc.), which carry through works we have studied.
- Choose one genre based on the theory of the genre wheel to build your thesis.
- Create a thesis that shows the reflection of a historical or scientific phenomenon captured in literature.
- Explore an area of science that becomes an important element in works of literature.
- Comment on the presence of psychological theory (Jungian or Freudian) and what it contributes to literature.
- Music and art have inspired and been inspired by literature; choose either music or art or both to confirm this inspiration.
- Writers may support a political agenda in literature. Relate works of literature that support such a political agenda.
- Often noted only briefly and sometimes even overlooked, the physical setting in literature becomes important to the development of theme or character. Select works of literature where setting takes on importance.
- Highly allegorical literature, rich in symbolism, engages serious readers. Consider such heavily coded literature on which to comment.
- Stylistic techniques of structure, characterization; motifs, themes, etc. may be compared and contrasted.
- Film often depicts and/or parallels literary genres or archetypes. Relate these two forms in a meaningful analysis.

### **BASIC REQUIREMENTS:**

- Thesis, proposal, revised proposal, and a preliminary bibliography will be submitted to your teacher per syllabus.
- Final draft of 8 – 10 pages, double-spaced
- Primary sources: 2 -3 works of literature studied in AP 4. (If using 3 sources, one may be a work from AP English 3.)
- Secondary sources: 3 scholarly criticisms/sources. **COPIES OF ALL ARTICLES/PAGES WILL BE TURNED IN WITH THE FINAL PAPER. THEY SHOULD REVEAL YOUR NOTATIONS AND CLOSE READING.** You may use only one internet source.

## **SUGGESTED STRATEGIES FOR BEGINNING THE RESEARCH PROCESS:**

1. **Locate sources immediately** that may prove useful and **create** a working bibliography – the rough draft of your final sources. Literary criticism will not be checked out from the library. This bibliography contains information about those books/articles which contain
  - your authors' works
  - articles about your authors' writing style in general
  - critical essays about the specific works you use
  - secondary works that discuss historical, social, psychological, philosophical, or mythological influences upon the authors
2. As you find a source that seems helpful, you need to **record all necessary bibliographical information** needed for a proper MLA citation. Remember that you need many sources initially. Later, you will narrow those references in the final draft.
3. **Make copies** of the articles or pages within books that seem to have the possibility for usefulness in your paper.
4. Be **EXTREMELY** cautious with internet sources. Check the authors for credibility and scholarly value.
5. **Submit work on schedule.** Missing a due date may jeopardize your entire project.
6. Do not **procrastinate**.
7. Do not **plagiarize**.
8. Revise, edit, revise, edit, and **PROOFREAD**. (Review the kinds of error committed on your polished essays.

**\*\*\*ORGANIZE YOUR PAPER BY IDEA, NOT BY TITLE!!!\*\*\***

## **DUE DATES:**

**Mon., Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>** – preliminary proposal due. Include a preliminary thesis, titles of primary works, and an explanation of your approach to proving/supporting the thesis.  
\*Begin research.

**Tues., March 15<sup>th</sup>** – a focused thesis, a topic outline, and a working bibliography of primary and secondary sources.  
\*Continue research, locating primary source quotations and secondary source articles – make copies of these secondary sources. Complete research prior to the first lab date.

**Tues., March 15<sup>th</sup> - Fri., March 18<sup>th</sup>** – begin composing the paper in class in the computer lab.

**Mon., March 28<sup>th</sup>** – discuss introductory and concluding paragraphs in class and answer questions.

**Wed., March 30<sup>th</sup>** – **Rough draft DUE.**

**Fri., April 8<sup>th</sup>** – **Final Paper DUE no later than this date. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED.**

**NOTE: You will submit ALL drafts, research articles, peer-edit forms, and any other documents related to the paper in an envelope provided to you. A statement of authenticity and a disc containing the final paper, outline, and works cited pages of the paper MUST also be submitted.**

**SUFFICIENT TIME HAS BEEN SCHEDULED SO THAT SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, ETC., WHICH COINCIDE WITH ANY PART OF THE PAPER PROCESS WILL NOT AFFECT THE FINAL DUE DATE!**