

Senior AP Research Assignment

Literature is not everything written and published. Literature has a life of its own and lives on forever because of its pertinent themes and ideas; it writhes on the floor demanding attention and discussion. In this class, you have been exposed to great literature. **You are to choose a theme or issue from a work we've read and discuss that theme/issue and how it has been communicated to a modern world.**

Murder in the Cathedral
Macbeth
Hamlet
Othello
Heart of Darkness
"The Hollow Men"
"The Secret Sharer"

Cave Allegory
Plato's *Apology*
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Taming of the Shrew
"On Liars"
"The Night Face Up"

You are to focus on how your concern has been *communicated* through the following areas:

1. **Art and/or architecture** – How does the art reflect this idea?
2. **Music** – Mrs. Bostwick must approve questionable lyrics. Discuss specific lines and how they reflect your topic.
3. **Selections from nonfiction books/ periodicals** – Several nonfiction needed sources for solid research.
4. **Fiction** – Discuss specific quotations from the text we read - discuss!
5. **Poetry** – This does not include song lyrics. – Discuss lines and how they reflect your topic. Discuss how the use of literary devices helps to communicate your theme.
6. **Television comedy/drama** – how does this communicate the theme?

Choose *at least one* of each of the above forms of communication. You must illustrate at least one from each of the above areas. State the theme clearly and explain its reason and consequences. Remember, you are to show how the concern is seen through all 6 of these areas. **All of these areas must come from 2000 to the present, with the exception of the literature we read in class.** Movies may be used as an additional support but not as a substitute for any of the above 6 areas.

THESIS STATEMENT

Thesis statement must be approved. Any change of topic must be approved by the teacher.

PAPER FORMAT –

1. Part of the challenge of writing a paper such as this is gleaning the important information and using only that in your paper. As a result, the paper must be **no less than 8 full pages (to the bottom of the page) and no more than 10 pages. Any work longer or shorter than the requirement will not be graded. This work must be typed (12-point font) and double-spaced. If you need help getting access to a computer, please see me.** Use the MLA information in your *Harbrace Handbook* for assistance on citing sources. Delete common grammatical errors such as using contractions and using first or second person pronouns. Any paper with a first or second person pronoun will not be graded.
2. Documentation – Use the Modern Language Association (MLA) format. There are copies of this format in my room, libraries, bookstores and on the Internet. Use only reliable sites such as ones tied to universities. Your *Harbrace Handbook* has specific instructions. You will do parenthetical citations and a "Works Cited" page. Don't forget a title page. You will not turn in note cards or an outline.
3. **You must have a minimum of 10 sources** listed on your "Works Cited" page. This does include your primary sources. **Four** of these sources must **not** be from the Internet. You must use hard sources from the library. Do **not** rely solely on the Internet to do your research. Remember, solid research will have many sources to prove a fair assessment of your topic.
4. **Your paper is too short to use long quotations. Do not include quotations longer than 3 lines.**

DUE DATES

The following are your due dates. **ABSOLUTELY NO LATE WORK/PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** If you feel a sore throat coming on, turn your work in early. If you know that you are going to be absent, turn your work in early. These two dates are the **LAST POSSIBLE DATE THAT I WILL ACCEPT THE WORK!** You may turn all work in any day before March 23. **DON'T WAIT UNTIL March 22 TO TYPE YOUR PAPER!** Be prepared for any type of disaster (computer breakdowns, sore throat, broken arm, breakup with boy/girlfriend, death of pet rock, temporary insanity...). **An excused school absence is not an excuse for a late paper.**

****January 12, 2010** – Last day to turn in your thesis statement. This cannot change without teacher approval.

****February 18, 2010** – Last day to turn in a rough draft; the rough draft is NOT AN OPTION. Please do not email me your paper. I will not proofread any rough drafts after 3:15 on February 18, 2010 so do not even ask. You are allowed ONE session with me (10 minutes) to discuss your research paper. Once you turn in your rough draft, you will schedule your meeting time with me.

**** March 23, 2010 by 3:10 P.M.** – This is the last day I will accept your papers. Papers turned in after 3:10 will not be accepted.

Your research package should be assembled as follows:

1. Cover page – see page 633 in *Harbrace Handbook*.
2. Approved Thesis Statement – if it is missing, your paper will not be graded.
3. Eight to ten pages - doubled spaced typed (12 point font) research paper, font – Times New Roman. The eight pages must be full pages. **TRIPLE CHECK YOUR MARGINS.** Papers that do not meet the length requirement **WILL NOT BE GRADED.** Your best bet is to write at least 9 pages – that way, if your margins are off, your paper still meets the length requirement.
4. Works Cited page – 8 sources with at least four from other than Internet.
5. Copies of any periodicals, nonfiction books etc. used for the research. If it appears in your parenthetical citations, you **MUST** turn in a copy of that page. If making copies becomes a financial strain, please see me. These copies should be assembled in the order they appear in your paper. If the source is used more than once in your paper, you do not need to make a new copy each time it appears. In other words, if you refer parenthetically to page 678 from a book on page 3 and 6 of your research paper, you need only include a copy of that page once in your packet. Any quotations you took from each source must be highlighted. These sources must be **IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY APPEAR ON YOUR PAPER.**
6. Your rough draft including the work-cited page, include it as the last section of your packet. If I did not find a mistake on your rough draft, I cannot count it wrong on your final draft. If you do not, I can count off for any mistake I find in your final draft.
7. Please assemble the package with a binder clip. Do not turn your project in with in a notebook.

You will not pass the semester if you choose not to do this project.

Be brilliant!