

Sophomore English Research Project

- Choose an American author (you may use authors from the past or current society)

- Research his or her life.

-wikipedia is not a cite to get information

* Use the following items to locate information.....
online biographies/autobiographies, journals, media reports, newspaper articles, actual books :), ect

- Write an expository paper:

Why is the author important in American Literature?

-Your paper will include information about the author but also you will have to discuss why this particular author is important in American Literature.

- 5 pages double spaced
- Works Cited Page
- at least 5 different sources used
- MLA
- Present to the class at the assigned due date....2 minute presentation...share your findings to the class and include why your American author is important in American Literature.
- Due date varies→

Sophomore Research Project Rubric

	4	3	2	1	
Response to Prompt	Presents a clearly focused thesis that addresses the prompt.	Uses the writing prompt to establish a main idea.	Attempts to address the prompt but with little or no success in establishing a focus.	Does NOT attempt to address the prompt.	
Organization	Establishes a clear and logical organization. Effective transitions are present to bridge between paragraphs.	Uses some sort of organizational plan. Transitions are used to bridge paragraphs.	Fails to organize ideas. A very limited use of transitions are used between paragraphs.	Contains no organization or ideas.	
Development and Details	Achieves coherent development with specific and relevant details and examples.	Has focused but occasionally uneven development; incorporates some specific detail.	Demonstrates little development; usually lacks details or examples or presents irrelevant information.	Demonstrates NO development; usually lacks details or examples or presents irrelevant information.	
Grammar	NO grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	2 or less grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors	3-5 grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	6+ grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors	
MLA Format	All stylistic techniques followed.	Most techniques are present.	Attempted to use MLA.	Did NOT use MLA.	
Citations	Show clear understanding of direct & indirect	Has 3 citations	Has 1 citations.	NO citations included	

	citation format. Includes at least 5 citations.				
Works Cited	Title, proper format, MLA formatted mechanically perfect. 5 sources are used.	Attempted to use MLA—but not formatted properly. 3-4 sources	1-2 sources.	NO Works Cited.	
Pages	5 pages	4 pages	3 pages	2 pages	

	4	3	2	1	
Body Posture & Movement	Stands straight & still. Uses movements & posture to add to message.	Either uses meaningful movements or does not shift or lean.	Uses no meaningful movements & leans or shifts weight.	Posture or movement interferes or distracts.	
Eye Contact	Maintains consistent eye contact with entire audience.	Maintains eye contact with most of audience; most of the time.	Only occasionally looks at audience.	Has no eye contact.	
Volume & Vocal Expression	Speaks loudly & comfortably to be heard by all AND speaks with	Speaks loudly enough to be heard by most AND speaks with natural	Speaks softly causing some audience discomfort OR limited vocal expression	Cannot be heard OR no expression or enthusiasm.	

	vocal expression & enthusiasm to create interest & attention.	vocal expression, but needs more enthusiasm			
Dress Appropriateness	Dress for success— business attire	Attempt to dress for success – 1 piece	Jeans and /or t-shirt	Sweats or holes	

_____ /48 → _____ % → _____ /400

Comments: