

# American Author Research Paper

## Assignment:

Select any American author past or present. You will be required to read three major works by this author so be sure to choose an author you enjoy. **All topics must be approved** prior to research.

In part one you will examine how the author's background affected his writing, in part two you will discuss your chosen novels and include what the critics have written them, and finally in part three you will analyze the author's style. Each part will have its own thesis statement. However they should be a common theme running through each of the three parts.

## **Part I: Biography/Milieu/Influences/Literary Movements (1 -2 pages)**

This part focuses on how your author's life, friends, personal beliefs, and time period in which he lived influenced his writing. Research the author's childhood, life experiences, and the people who influenced him. You may choose to also explore the time period in which that author lived, and the social and literary movements that were taking place during his lifetime.

Remember that you only want to focus on people and events that are of **major** importance and that **influenced** the author's writing and the literary elements you will discuss.

## **Part II: Critical Analysis and Synopsis (2 -3 pages)**

Find critical analysis on the novel you have read. Use your research to inform your discussion of the themes, characterizations, motifs and plots of the novels. Be sure to **comment on/explain each criticism**. You should also include some of your own supported commentary.

## **Part III: Analysis of Author's Style (2 -3 pages)**

Discuss recurring literary elements within the text of your studied works. Examine themes, conflicts, settings, literary devices, conflicts, plots, and narration.

## **Submission:**

- ❖ Length: 6-9 typed pages **NO MORE, NO LESS**
- ❖ Format: MLA format. Paper **must** be typed and double line spaced with 1-inch margins all around. Times Roman **12 point fonts**
- ❖ Works Cited page with minimum of 9 sources. Reliable resources only!!
- ❖ Electronic copy of your paper in a file entitled with your name.
- ❖ Hard copy should be submitted in a report folder (*no slides please*)

**No late papers! If you are absent, find a way find a way to submit your paper on time.**

## **Due Dates**

Letter of Intent/Application: January 11<sup>th</sup>

Thesis/Working Outline: January 27<sup>th</sup>

Rough Draft/Peer Revision#1: March 5<sup>th</sup>

Second Draft/Peer Revision #2: April 9<sup>th</sup>

Final Paper Due: April 24<sup>th</sup>