

HS English B Spring Literary Project

Choose a topic related to something we've covered in class and expand it according to your interest. Before getting started, draft a topic proposal for approval. Your project will consist of a formal academic essay in MLA format, a collection of visual elements, and a separate brief overview of what you learned to share with the class in a *short* presentation at the end of the semester.

Project Elements

- 4-5 page essay written in the third person that explores your topic thoroughly. Minimum three sources (but you should have more than three).
 - **A note on sources:** This project should require you to read other books (or excerpts from other books), not just search the web and reprint what's already been printed. Be open to reading other works (books, short stories, poems, adaptations).
- 8-10 images that correlate with your topic (photos of authors, book covers, film posters, newspaper/magazine clippings, etc.) The sources for these images should be included on your Works Cited page. These images can be buried in your paper (if you know how to do that), or they can be printed at the end of your paper in a collection. Each image should be captioned with what/who it is along with the source.
- A 2/3-minute oral presentation to the class that summarizes your research, sharing a few interesting facts you learned.

Deadlines

Wednesday, April 5: Outline and Works Cited page due

Wednesday, April 19: Rough draft due

April 27: Final project due

April 27 and May 4: 3-minute presentations

Grading Rubric (50 points)

10 points: deadlines, scope, size, and source requirements met

15 points: MLA format, citations, Works Cited, etc.

25 points: error-free original content, concise ideas, organization, etc.

Topic Suggestions:

- JRR Tolkien's connection to *Beowulf* and his influence on the popularity of the epic poem
- Choose any of the eras we covered in the poetry section and do a deeper dive into how the values of that particular era were reflected in other works of literature (Romanticism, Victorian, etc.)
- Setting as a Character: research other novels that use this literary device and assess its effectiveness (*Rebecca*)

- Explore Intertextuality, how some works of literature are influenced by, derived from, referenced or inspired by other literary works (Ex: William Blake and CS Lewis, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte and *Rebecca*)
- Explore time travel as a literary device. What purpose does it serve? Is it a means to an end? What does it say about us as readers that we're interested in time traveling? What are the various ways in which writers can use time traveling to achieve certain goals in a story? (*Kindred* plus other works that use the same device)
- Explore the transition from prose to drama via adaptation (novels/short stories that have been converted to screenplays). Look at characterization, changes in plot, etc.
- Examine how Southern Gothic stories reveal culture, attitudes, and social norms
- Literature connected to social and civil movements/topics and its impact on society
- Impact of Shakespeare on English literature (avoid being vague here)
- Compare/Contrast the real Julius Caesar with Shakespeare's play
- Connection between mental illness and the creative life (likely looking at some Lost Generation writers here)