**Academic 11 Literary Research Project 2017**

**What are our objectives?**

**Learning about Research**

* To understand what makes a source credible and to identify and avoid online sources that are not credible
* To understand what databases offer and how to evaluate and cite information from a database
* To understand when and how to paraphrase and when and how to quote information when gathering research
* To cite information in a well-organized and detailed outline
* To create an MLA Works Cited Sheet that corresponds with citations in traditional detailed outline

**Gathering Research to Create a Compelling Informational Presentation**

* To apply your in-depth knowledge from research to create a detailed presentation that will engage your classmates in learning more about the book you read, its author, its genre, the issues it addresses, and what critics have written about it.

**Process (1 week in library/ 1 week with Chromebooks/ 1 week presentations)**

1. We will spend the first day in the library learning about digital and print resources. You will have time to begin to find and explore resources about your author and to begin taking some notes.
2. You will take notes to prepare for your informational presentation about your book.You will be engaging the audience in **learning about your book: its character, its author, its genre, what critics have to say about it, and about the issues or big ideas that it addresses.**
3. You will create at least **12 note cards** using at LEAST **four varied and credible sources** which include at least one database source. Each note card will include one substantive quote or at least three bulleted notes. You will paraphrase as you take notes and clearly mark any time that you take ideas word for word from a text. These note cards are due at the end of this week**: Friday, March 31st.**
4. You will then create an outline using the facts that you gathered from research and using notes and passages from the text that you read. (You will have two days in class to work on outlines next week.)
5. You will cite facts from research in your outline and create a Works Cited sheet that corresponds with those citations following MLA rules.
6. You will use your outline to inform and engage your classmates with a 3-4 minute presentation about your author and your book.

**Remember, that ALL of your information must come from credible sources.** **What is a credible source? Here are a few KEY things to consider when evaluating sources**

* **Authorship:** Who wrote this information and what makes this person an authority on the topic?
* **Timeliness:** Is this up to date? (The relevance of timeliness depends upon the question being asked.)
* **Sponsorship or Publisher:** What organization or individual is responsible for the accuracy of this content in addition to any named author? What do I know about this sponsor’s credibility and reputation?
* **Publication:** What type of a publication originally produced this information? If this is an Internet source, who posted this information, in what context, and for what audience and purpose? If this is from a database, where was this information originally published?
* **Citations and Resources** – Where did this source get their research?

**Evaluating Authorship of a Web Site**

If there is no specific author listed who you can evaluate, then you need to evaluate the sponsor. Look for a link somewhere on the page that provides you information about the sponsor. Then consider the following questions:

* Is this an organization that has a well-established reputation that has been built over time?
* Does the organization list experts or a board of directors who evaluate the content the organization publishes here?
* Is this a non-profit or a for profit entity? Do they have a bias that might influence the content they publish here?

The key is to take a little time to really think carefully about what makes this sponsor credible. What evidence do you have that the content here can be trusted?

**Credibility of Books and Print Resources**

For books and print resources, you should also look carefully at the publisher and also the date. Consider the audience for whom the book was written as well. If it as written for a young audience it might not be a good research source for you as a high school scholar. Similarly, if either a book or an article is written for a highly specialized audience and uses a lot of slang or vocabulary you do not understand, it also might not be a suitable source for you.

**What is the reason Wikipedia is not a credible source?**

There is no clear editorial accountability. Additionally, it is a very general encyclopedia source. As you advance in school, you are expected to use increasingly SCHOLARLY sources, and Wikipedia is not scholarly. Additionally, sources like Schmoop, Cliff Notes, and Spark Notes and their other online equivalents are NOT the kinds of sources you should be using when you are researching your author or his/her work. These are brainstorming tools ONLY. These sources provide the MOST general of information and do not meet the criteria above.

**Education (.edu) sites are often credible, but even these** **can be less credible if there is no sign of PEER REVIEW**. Peer review is different than peer editing. When we are talking about research, peer review is the process that a paper or essay goes through in which it is carefully examined and evaluated by experts. A student paper that is published on a student website has NOT been through any type of peer review. In contrast, a college paper that is published formally in a college publication or has been formally presented to a faculty board has gone through this level of scrutiny and can be considered a credible and more scholarly source. Also, remember you need to consider the author and what makes him/her an expert!

**Places to Search:**

**Databases (**[**http://pthslibrary.weebly.com/**](http://pthslibrary.weebly.com/)**) under “Research”**

* Gale Literature Criticism Online
* Power Library: Contemporary Authors
* OmniFile (via PT Public Library \*\* need a library card to access)

**Websites**

* GoodReads.com
* NY Times Book Reviews
* NPR Book Reviews
* Your author’s own website or blog

**Books (**[**http://pthslibrary.weebly.com/**](http://pthslibrary.weebly.com/)**) under “Read”**

* Alexandria System

**Note Card Guidelines**

**In order to prepare to cite your sources, you have to first keep track of your sources as you research!**

1. First, locate and evaluate your sources carefully. Then, take notes from each of your **FOUR sources**.
   1. Your notes will be recorded on 3 x 5 or 4x6 notecards.
   2. Each note card will include **at LEAST one substantive quotation from a resource or three bulleted ideas**.
   3. Most of your note cards will be paraphrased notes, ideas written in your own words. Only quote when there is a specific reason to quote rather than paraphrase information.
   4. When you write a quote on a note card, you MUST mark it as a quote and note who the speaker was. Remember, the speaker is not always the same person as the author.
   5. The source of the information will be noted on EACH card with a specific source number that you have assigned to that specific source.
   6. Do not put notes from different sources on the same card.
2. You will submit **at least 12 note cards** to me at the end of a week of research that include at least three bulleted notes or one substantive quotation from an expert.
3. You will use your notes to create your outline.
4. You will need to CITE your sources on your outline.

\*see handout with examples of bibliography and note cards

**Research Outline: Academic 11 Requirements**

Your presentation about your book will include the following elements. You will prepare and submit a **FORMAL outline** to me that includes each of these elements.

1. **Make sure that you cite sources in your outline using internal citations.**
2. **You should include and cite EACH of your four sources AND your book itself in your outline.**
3. Each section of the outline has a specific focus and includes specific citation requirements that are bolded below.
4. You MUST include a **WORKS CITED PAGE** with your outline. This is part of the citation process. The Works Cited page provides all of the information about the source and aligns with the INTERNAL CITATIONS in your outline. Refer to the citations resources on the library research website as you create your Works Cited and cite your sources in your outline.

Follow the outline format modeled for you here. Use roman numerals followed by capital letters and then numbers and finally, lower case letters. Do not use simple bullets. See me if you need assistance on this.

**I. Introduction**

A. Craft an introduction that grabs our attention. Use a specific attention-grabbing strategy!

B. Introduce and build our interest in your topic. Include the title of the work and the name of your author.

C. Present a general thesis.

1. Your thesis should focus on your specific insights into the work of literature you read and why this work and this author help us to understand a particular theme, topic, or time period. What is it about this author’s treatment of this theme or topic that is compelling?

2. If you have chosen to focus on a social issue in literature, explain why this writer’s work is important in helping us to understand that social issue.

1. **Body**
2. **Character, Conflict, and Theme: Information From Your Independent Reading**
   1. Introduce your main character in a compelling way for your audience using elements of description.
   2. Introduce the key conflicts in the text and the central theme of the text. Explain each.
      1. **Quote at least two passage(s) from the text that you read**.
      2. Explain what each of these passages reveal about that character’s internal and external conflicts and/or the theme.
      3. Discuss what conflicts drive the plot of the story, but do not reveal all of the plot to your audience. Your task is to build interest in your book, but not to reveal so much that someone else would not want to read it for themselves. (Think about how a movie trailer does this.)
   3. Explain what the main themes of your text are and how the conflicts relate to that theme. Use a passage from the text to show your insights into the theme.
3. **Biographical information about your author: Information from Research**
   1. How did your author’s life influence his or her writing?
      1. Cite relevant research facts about your author; no one wants to know where he/she went to kindergarten. In fact, in most cases, the date of birth of the writer is irrelevant. Does it matter that he/she was born on September 22nd?
      2. **Focus on what is relevant to us as students of literature and what is important in relation to the book you are presenting. Cite at least three facts or quotes in this section.**
   2. What factors most influenced him / her: places, people, life-changing events.
   3. When did this author live? What was the historical context of his/ her writing? What is relevant about that context to our understanding of this author and his or her influence on the landscape of American literature?
4. **Genre & Style: Information from Independent Reading AND Research**
   1. In what genre does this author primarily write? How does this writer demonstrate key aspects of that genre? What is distinctive about his or her style within that genre? How does this writer compare to other writers of that genre?
   2. Is this author part of a larger literary trend? Is this writing realistic? Is it fantasy? What makes the writing fit this trend?
   3. What is distinctive about this author’s style? What do you think in comparison to what critics think?
      1. **Cite a passage(s) from your reading of the text** that illustrates your insight into this author’s style.
      2. **Cite a quote from a CREDIBLE literary expert about this author** and respond to that quote with your own ideas. You may either agree or disagree with the expert, but you should give your reasoning. This can be from any credible book review. Do not cite the comments of people who are not named or who are not arguably experts on the subject of literature.

**III.  Conclusion:**

1. Take time to bring your ideas to a close in a way that this thought-provoking and original rather than blunt or formulaic.
2. Draw some conclusions about your book that are based in part on your research and in part on your reading of the text. What will your conclusions be about? What makes this work worth reading? What have you learned? Think critically!
3. Include a compelling last line that brings your presentation to a clear close.

**Research Outline Academic English 11 (2016)**  **Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Score \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/50**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Formatting (5 points)**

\_\_\_Outline uses a tradition format: Roman numerals, letters, numbers, and uniform indentations of points and sub-points.

\_\_\_Outline contains an MLA heading, a title, and is double spaced.

\_\_\_One inch margins are used. Ideas are indented and aligned from one level to the next.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Introduction/ Conclusion (5 points)**

\_\_\_Effectively grabs the attention of the audience

\_\_\_Introduces and builds interest in the topic

\_\_\_Presents a clear and insightful thesis about the book and the author that relates to the central themes

\_\_\_Conclusion effectively sums up key ideas and offers thought-provoking insights. It ends with a “so what”!!!

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**Body (20 points)**

\_\_\_ All required sections are included and clearly labeled A, B, C, and D.

\_\_\_Transition statements are written out in clear and complete sentences (at opening of A, B, C, and D)

\_\_\_Section A includes at LEAST two citations from the book of choice. (Cite with author name and page number.)

\_\_\_Quotes from text are explained briefly. (Not everything to be said needs to be word for word on outline.)

\_\_\_ Section B includes three cited facts or quotes. (Cite with author name if there is one and page number if there is one. If there is no author, use the sponsor name and then list the sponsor as your author on the Works Cited page.)

\_\_\_Section C includes at least one quote from a literary expert and a quote from the book. (Cite with author name if there is one and page number if there is one. If there is no author, use the sponsor name and then list the sponsor as your author on the Works Cited page.)

\_\_\_Section D has a clear focus that is defined so that this section is not just a list of facts.

\_\_\_Section D includes at least three cited facts or quotes from research. (Cite with author name if there is one and page number if there is one. If there is no author, use the sponsor name and then list the sponsor as your author on the Works Cited page.)

\_\_\_In general, the outline thoughtfully explores precise and detailed information that is essential to the topic in each of the required areas. (Note any specific elements on the outline that need to be added.)

\_\_\_Each required area of the outline is addressed with details from highly reputable and varied research sources.

\_\_\_A variety of credible research sources are used throughout the outline. If you see a source being used that is not credible, call this out to your partner!

\_\_\_ The outline consistently uses and cites specific details from the text and paraphrased information that goes beyond common knowledge and shows more than a very basic understanding of the topic.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Citation (20)**

\_\_\_\_ All five sources on the Works Cited sheet are cited in this outline. (More than four is fine!) You MUST INCLUDE YOUR WORKS CITE PAGE AFTER YOUR OUTLINE!!!!!

\_\_\_\_All parenthetical citations are error-free and accurately correspond with the Works Cited sheet.

\_\_\_\_Writer uses correct MLA format for each citation on the Works Cited sheet without error.

\_\_\_\_Writer includes at LEAST four research sources AND his/her literary work on the Works Cited.

\_\_\_\_Entries on the Works Cite are accurate, alphabetized, and are listed with a hanging indent.

\_\_\_\_Each page after the first page includes the student’s last name and page number including the Works Cited page.

\_\_\_\_The outline shows evidence of purposeful and correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, and usage. Make sure that book titles are in italics!