

Author Research Paper

For this paper you will need to research the life, history, and literary works of the author you have chosen. The goal of the paper and questions you seek to answer are:

1. What is the major contribution that [your author] has made to the literary world?
2. Why is [the author you have selected] important and still being read today?

Through the reading and research you do, you should be able to answer those questions, create your own thesis, and deliver a polished paper.

I have divided the requirements for the paper into 5 stages and created a brainstorm to help guide you through the process.

First you must select the author you will be researching from the sheet I provided. Please write their name here: _____.

Stage 1 is research.

You will need to go to the library or use the laptops in class to complete your internet, magazine, and newspaper **Research Forms**. You will need to find four internet sources, one magazine source, and one newspaper source about your author. In addition, you need to make a copy of the articles you look at and staple them to the research form. For websites please print out the first page of the site and staple it to the research form. Lastly, you will need to answer the **Research Questions** I have provided before you can move onto stage 2. The answers must be typed. You can print out your answers onto the back of the question sheet if you like.

The above mentioned research requirements are only minimums. You are more than welcome to look at as many sources as you need in order to get a clear understanding of your author.

Stage 2 is reading.

You will need to read a minimum of **one novel** and **two short stories** from the author you have selected. Once you finish your readings you must fill out the **Story Report Form**. In addition, you will need to complete the **Discoveries and Thesis** worksheet before you go onto stage 3.

Stage 3 is pre-writing.

After you have finished your research and readings you are ready to write. As always, you must do some pre-writing techniques before you can start drafting. You must create a **bubble cluster** (in color, no pencil on a white piece of paper) and type up an **outline**. I will provide you with an example **outline** that should help you with the structure of your paper.

Stage 4 is drafting and peer evaluation.

From your pre-writing techniques, you should type your **rough draft**. At this time you will incorporate your research by including at least three but no more than five **parenthetical citations**. Once your draft is complete, you need to answer the **peer evaluation questions** that are directed to your own writing. The questions and responses must be typed. Then on the

assigned due date for stage 4, bring your materials to be evaluated by a classmate. The classmate will evaluate your paper and answer the questions on the peer evaluation sheet.

Stage 5 is your final draft to be turned in.

This is the stage where you put all of your hard work together to create your research paper. On the top of your paper you will have a **cover page**. The **cover page** should be some sort of drawing, collage, picture or other form of creativity that visually represents the author you have chosen. Whether your cover sheet is horizontal or vertical, your name, my name, class, period number and date will need to be typed and placed in the lower right corner of your sheet. Next you will have the paper itself paying careful attention to **MLA format**. It should be 3-4 pages typed and include at least 3 **parenthetical citations**. Lastly, on separate page you will have your **works cited** following **MLA citation** guidelines.

Throughout the course of each stage, I will guide you with specific lessons to help you with your work. As always if you have any questions or are having difficulty please do not hesitate to ask for assistance. If you lose any of the required documents, you can access them at <http://www.mrisaacs.com/handouts.htm>

Here is a checklist for work to be completed and submitted by the due date:

Research Paper Checklist

Stage	Work to be completed	Due date	Completed
Stage 1	Research forms, articles copied, pages from websites printed, and research questions completed		
Stage 2	Story Forms, Discoveries and Thesis form		
Stage 3	Brainstorm, outline		
Stage 4	Typed rough draft, self and peer evaluation exercises		
Stage 5	Cover page, final draft, works cited		