SENIOR ENGLISH AUTHOR RESEARCH PROJECT

*Purpose:*

1. To explore British Literature through its authors and the times in which they created and lived.
2. To promote advancement of student research skills
3. To engage students in personal, individualized response to literature

*Dates of Note:*

1. Thursday 1/16/2020 🡪 Research begins
2. Tuesday 1/21/20 🡪 List of 10 sources due at beginning of class
3. Wednesday 1/22/20 🡪 Research completed/Last day in the library/Works Cited page due in Google Classroom
4. Thursday and Friday 1/23-24/20 🡪 Laptop-Based Paper Construction
5. Wednesday 1/29/20 🡪 Final Draft of Paper Due

*Author Choices:*

Charles Dickens, Jonathan Swift, Lewis Carroll, Jane Austen, William Shakespeare, Charlotte Bronte, Emily Bronte, Robert Louis Stevenson, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Oscar Wilde, George Bernard Shaw

*Paper Sections:*

1. Introduction
2. Author’s Life/Background Information
3. Subject Matter and Writing Style
4. British Historical Events While They Were Writing
5. Critical Response and Whether You Agree

*Final Draft Grading Criteria:*

* 10 points for sources: required number, correctly cited, and reliable
* 10 points for including all five of the paper sections and the quality of your writing
* 10 points for correct formatting of your final paper
* 10 points for organization, grammar, mechanics, and spelling
* 5 points for your slideshow

*General Research Tips*

* Write down information EXACTLY as it appears in case you want to use it as a direct quote. Even if you are not sure you will use it, write it down – it is better to have too much than to have to go looking again.
* Consider the reliability of Internet sources. Who is the author/sponsor of that particular page? What is their agenda in posting that information?

*Suggested Electronic Sources*

* Biography.com
* Google Scholar [especially for the critical response section]

*Project Sequence (complete in this order):*

 Begin collecting information about your author from various sources, starting with section 2. Write your findings in bullet format for quick reference later. You will need to reference at least 10 sources (at least 3 written texts and 1 written by your author).

 Write down the source of your info before moving on to a different source and keep it separate (new pen color, draw a line, etc.). Be sure that you are gathering info for each section of the paper.

 Format your list of sources using an online citation site (see below). \*\*\*A URL is not a formatted source.\*\*\*

 Organize your notes. Look for information that goes together according to a major section of the paper. Then, place notes in that section it in a logical order, with one idea leading to the next.

Bottom of Form

 Construct a Rough & Final Draft from your notes. Don’t forget to add your own personal commentary about the research you mention. When in doubt, cite your sources, and explain the relevance of your research where necessary.

 Create a PowerPoint or Prezi highlighting the information from your paper.

*Questions to Help Guide Each Paper Section*

1) Introduction

* Who are you writing about?
* How would you describe them overall?

2) Life/Background

* What might readers be surprised to know?

3) Subject Matter/Writing Style

* What did they write about primarily?
* How would you describe their diction, pattern of organization, and voice?

4) British History

* What was happening culturally (social attitudes, practices, etc.)?
* How might these have influenced the writer?

5) Critical Response

* What have others said about this writer?
* What are the strengths and flaws in their commentary?

*How to Create Your Works Cited Page*

1. Go to citationmachine.net 🡪 Create Citations 🡪 MLA
2. Select Your Source Type
3. Find the result that best matches your information and fill in any missing information you can
4. Click “Create Citation”
5. Repeat steps 1-4 as necessary
6. Open a Google Doc and transfer your citations using the “copy and paste button” next to each entry (they must go in the same order as they show on the website)