

Research Paper 2008-09
Sophomore Honors



The major project for English II is the process writing of a research paper.

For this project, you will be researching a poet's life, reading his/her work, and proving that aspects of the poet's life are reflected in her/his work.

The primary objectives of this project are that you learn:

- what research tools are available to you;
- how to access these research tools;
- how to choose valuable information;
- how to evaluate the credibility of a source;
- how to organize and cite this information;
- how to write a research paper in which you support your own ideas with strong research.

You will also learn:

- how to understand a specific poet's life and times;
- how to find allusions to the poet's personal life in his/her poetry;
- how to analyze and explain the allusions to the poet's life;
- how to write a paper that clearly explains how the poet's work reflects her/his life.

Length: 3 to 5 pages long. You must stay within those parameters! It requires more skill to write a concise paper in which you carefully analyze and choose quotes and references, than it does to compose a very long paper that includes everything you read on the topic. Design your paper to prove your point by making strong connections between the poetry and the poet's life, and by judiciously choosing what to quote and say.

You will use handouts provided as your guide for the format of each step.

The following is an overview of the Research Paper process, as well as the schedule:

1. RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC IDEAS Homework 11-12-08

First, you will choose five possible poets. Each student will eventually be researching a different poet, so you must rank your five choices in order of preference. The poets will be assigned in a fair manner on Nov 12th.

2. PREPARATION FOR RESEARCH Homework 11-14-08

After your poet has been assigned, you must choose two poems by your poet to analyze. You must also write a brief biography (one paragraph only) with information about your poet.

3. MEDIA CENTER RESEARCH &
SOPHOMORE EXPO PACKET

DATE

At this point, you will begin to research your poet's life and times in depth. In the Media Center, you will be given tools to facilitate your research.

Print out copies of everything that you use for your paper; Photocopy pages of books or magazines used. **Hard copies of all sources (print-outs or photocopies) must be submitted with your research paper.**

You will be researching the poet's life, finding information, specifically, about:

- childhood
- family
- education
- romantic relationships
- interests and hobbies
- career
- personal tragedy or trauma
- critical response or reaction
- awards and recognitions

Also investigate the time and place in which that person lived, such as:

- national events
- economy
- politics
- international affairs
- arts and culture
- social trends or movements
- anything else of significance

As you read and research, be looking for hints about your poet's life in his or her poetry. **Remember, the final paper must show a connection.** Details of your poet's life that you will refer to are those that you also see allusions to in the poet's poetry.

4. ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY Quiz

 DUE DATE

After you have located sources, you will use Noodletools to create an annotated bibliography, according to the instructions given to you in the Media Center.

Requirements: Minimum sources, consisting of the following:

5 minimum: Poems **MAY COME FROM ANY TYPE OF SOURCE INCLUDING FREE WEB**

5 minimum: Research ---At least **1** book, unless unavailable (must print out proof from OPAC)
1 from History databases
1 from Biography databases
1 from Literary Resource Center
NO FREE WEB

(In the research paper, you must cite at least 3 poems and use at least 3 other sources from your research (1 book, 2 databases))

5. NOTE CARDS

Quiz

 DUE DATE

In the Media Center, you will learn to create note cards using Noodletools (week of 12-1 -08). You will then go through all of your sources, highlighting essential information and creating note cards for each piece of researched information.

Requirements: 25 minimum—Note cards from Noodletools must be printed out on half-sheets and glued or taped onto large note cards.

The research paper must include hard copies of all computer-generated sources and photocopies of pages from other sources, with portions cited in the research paper highlighted. **Remember to highlight as you write and assemble your note cards.**

6. THESIS STATEMENT

Homework

DUE DATE

At this point, you should know which elements of your poet's life are most strongly connected to his/her poetry. Likewise, you should know which poetry best illustrates these connections. You should now be able to write a clear thesis statement, one that clearly points to all your major ideas.

7. SENTENCE OUTLINE

Quiz

DUE DATE

This is where you organize your research paper. More information on proper format will be forthcoming.

8. ROUGH DRAFT AND PEER

Homework

DUE DATE

EVALUATION

(Rough draft includes in-text citations and Works Cited page)

9. RESEARCH PAPER WITH IN-TEXT Tests

DUE DATE

CITATIONS, WORKS CITED PAGE, AND HIGHLIGHTED COPIES OF SOURCES CITED

MUST BE SUBMITTED IN A 3-RING BINDER

If you are absent from school on the due date for the research paper, you must have someone submit the work for you. Do not give your paper to anyone other than your English teacher. If someone submits the paper for you, have that person get a receipt. Computer / printer excuses will not be accepted, as you will have ample time to complete the paper. Have a back-up of all your work; save it on your hard drive, a disc **and** in your school network folder. Your grade will drop ten percent each day it is late.

Plagiarism, at any stage of the process, will result in a zero.

Name _____ Mods _____

SOPHOMORE HONORS RESEARCH PAPER

Will not be accepted unless it is submitted in a 3-ring binder.

	POINTS	TOTAL
INTRODUCTION	10	_____
Hook is interesting, grabs reader's attention Connections are made between hook and thesis Thesis sentence is clearly stated		
BODY PARAGRAPHS	45	_____
Begin with clear topic sentences Ideas are fully supported Ideas are clearly communicated Paragraphs are well-developed, coherent Overall arrangement of paragraphs well-organized Transitions used well Each body paragraph minimum 2 poems, 1 paraphrase, 1 direct quote -5 points/missing poem		
CONCLUSION	5	_____
Restates ideas without being repetitious Gives sense of completion Imaginative		
RESEARCH	40	_____
All borrowed ideas are cited In-text citations are varied and clearly understood Works Cited Page is correctly formatted Quotations properly introduced & cited		
	=	_____
-10 deducted & paper returned unless print-outs are highlighted, labeled & match order on Works Cited Page—paper must then be resubmitted.		
-1 for each error in the following: Sentence structure, word choice Grammar, spelling, tense, punctuation Formal English rules, format		
-20 per page over or under required length (3-5 pages)		
TOTAL POINTS	100	_____

POSSIBLE POETS

Akhmatova, Anna	19 th /20 th c Russian poet; Dissenter during Russian Revolution and early days of communism.
Angelou, Maya	Contemporary African-American poet; Black female experience, family.
Berryman, John	American poet; early childhood trauma; confessional poetry, suicide
Bishop, Elizabeth	Early 20 th Century; female experience, confessional poetry, l
Blake, William	18 th century English poet; mysticism; religion
Bly, Robert	20 th century American poet; lyrical, intellectual, family
Bradstreet, Anne	Puritan poet of the 18 th century; history, love, family
Brooke, Rupert	English poet; love, mental illness, WW1; died young
Brooks, Gwendolyn	African-American female poet; Chicago, inner city
Browning, Elizabeth Barrett	19 th c. English poet; tyrannical father; social issues (women, slavery, poverty), love
Celan, Paul	20 th c Romanian poet, Jewish; WWII, concentration camps
Chin, Marilyn	Contemporary American poet, born in Hong Kong
Cisneros, Sandra	Contemporary American poet; Grew up in Mexico & Chicago.
Clifton, Lucille	20 th c. African-American poet; Women, family
Collins, Billy	Contemporary American poet; professor, New York
Cullen, Countee	20 th c. African-American poet; New York, , civil rights
Cummings, E.E.	20 th c. American poet; WWI, fascination with language, intellectual, experimental
Dickinson, Emily	19 th c. American; family, death, love, isolation
Donne, John	16 th c. English poet; Love, death, family, religion,
Doty, Mark	Contemporary American poet; gay rights, death, AIDS, love

Dove, Rita	African-American poet; women, America
Eliot, T. S.	20 th C. American expatriate to England; Modern culture, religion, intellectual
Ginsberg, Alan	20 th c. American poet; Beat poet, modern culture, politics, censorship
Giovanni, Nikki	20 th c American poet; women, Black experience
Gluck, Louise	Contemporary American poet; women, classical themes
Hacker, Marilyn	Contemporary female poet; women, modern life
Hall, Donald	Contemporary poet; publisher, death, personal poetry
Haas, Robert	Contemporary American poet; modern culture, intellectual
Heaney, Seamus	Modern Irish poet; personal poetry
Herrick, Robert	16 th c. English poet; love, religion
Hirshfield, Jane	Modern female poet; philosophy, women
Hopkins, Gerard Manley	19 th c. English poet; religion, devotion, nature, experimental poetry
Houseman, A.E.	19 th /20 th c. English poet; love, death, war
Howe, Marie	Contemporary American poet; women, death, family
Hughes, Langston	20 th c. Black American poet; Black experience, Harlem Renaissance
Hughes, Ted	Modern English poet; childhood difficulties, husband of Sylvia Plath, philosophy
Keats, John	18 th /19 th c. English poet; death, love
Kenyon, Jane	Modern American poet; women, love, nature, personal poetry, death
Kipling, Rudyard	19 th c. British poet; war, India, Colonialism
Komunyakaa, Yusef	Contemporary American poet; Black experience, Viet Nam, love, death

Kunitz, Stanley	Modern American poet; classical, family, love, death, nature
Larkin, Phillip	Modern English poet; love, nature, death, intellect
Lawrence, D.H.	20 th c. English poet and novelist; love, philosophy
Lorca, Federico Garcia	Modern Spanish poet; artist, Spanish culture, folklore
Lowell, Amy	19 th /20 th c. American poet; woman, intellectual, New England
Lowell, Robert	Modern American poet; confessional poet, mental illness, love, marriage, depression
Marvell, Andrew	17 th c. English poet; political satire, love
Millay, Edna St.Vincent	Early 20 th c poet; women, Greenwich Village, theater
Milosz, Czeslaw	Eastern European 20 th c. poet; Communism, politics, Poland, WWI and II
Milton, John	17 th c blind English poet; classical themes, Puritans
Moore, Marianne	19 th /20 th c. American poet
Neruda, Pablo	Modern Chilean poet; politics, family, love, death
Olds, Sharon	Contemporary American poet; women, family, love, marriage
Oliver, Mary	Contemporary American poet; women, nature, New England
Owen, Wilfred	Early 20 th c. English poet; WWI, death
Parker, Dorothy	Early 20 th c. American poet; women; Unhappy childhood, society, modern culture
Plath, Sylvia	Modern American poet; women, childhood trauma, mental illness, suicide, marriage, children, love
Pound, Ezra	Early 20 th c. American poet; mentor to great poets; politics, Fascism, mental illness, art
Rich, Adrienne	Modern American poet; women, feminism, politics, modern culture
Rilke, Rainier Maria	19 th /20 th c. male poet born in Prague; unhappy childhood, Russia, WWI
Rossetti, Christina	19 th c English poet; women, mysticism, illness, death

Sandberg, Carl	19 th /20 th c. American writer; impoverished childhood, history, Socialism, Chicago, San Francisco
Sarton, May	20 th c. American poet; women, theater, depression
Service, Robert W.	19 th /20 th c. English poet, brought up in Scotland; “poet of the Yukon,” nature, travel
Sexton, Anne	Modern American poet; women, mental illness, suicide, family, confessionalism
Shelley, Percy Bysshe	18 th /19 th c. English poet; Romanticism, nature, love
Spender, Stephen	20 th c. English poet; Spanish Civil War, social protest, WWII
Stevens, Wallace	19 th /20 th c. American poet; business, WWI, family, love
Swenson, May	20 th c. American poet; women, editor
Szyborska, Wislawa	Modern female Polish poet
Teasdale, Sara	19 th /20 th c. American poet; women, classical form
Tennyson, Alfred Lord	19 th c. English poet; English poet laureate, history, nature
Thomas, Dylan	20 th c. Welsh poet; social & intellectual issues, childhood
Walker, Alice	Contemporary African-American writer; traumatic childhood, women
Warren, Robert Penn	20 th c. American writer; South, nature, politics
Wheatley, Phillis	18 th c. Black female poet; women, slavery
Whitman, Walt	19 th c. American poet; Civil War, love, individuality
Williams, William Carlos	19 th /20 th c. American poet; doctor, New Jersey, death, love, family, philosophy
Wordsworth, William	18 th /19 th c. English poet; orphaned as child, Romanticism, interest in the common man
Yeats, William Butler	19 th /20 th c. Irish poet; Irish politics, love, classical