

## Research Paper

100 points

### Assignment:

1. Choose one poet we have discussed in class. (Examples below are Renaissance poets)
  - a. Sir Thomas Wyatt
  - b. Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey
  - c. Sir Walter Raleigh
  - d. Edmund Spenser
  - e. Sir Philip Sidney
  - f. Christopher Marlowe
  - g. William Shakespeare
2. Write a three to five page paper on the life and works of your selected poet.
3. Use a minimum of five sources to gather information for your paper (no more than two of those sources may come from the Internet). You must use MLA guidelines to site your sources.
4. For each source, you will keep notes. In your notes you will include all information relevant to the source you are using. **YOU MAY NOT PRINT OUT NOTES FROM THE INTERNET TO TURN IN.** All notes must be hand-written. You will turn in these notes with your final manuscript.
5. You must type your final paper using MLA format (font size no larger than 13).

### Schedule :

- \_\_\_\_\_ – assignment made
- \_\_\_\_\_ – topic\* and thesis statement\* due (15 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ – computer research day
- \_\_\_\_\_ – outline\* due (15 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ – library day
- \_\_\_\_\_ – library day
- \_\_\_\_\_ – rough draft due (20 points)
- \_\_\_\_\_ – Question & Answer day with teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ – notes (10 points) and final paper due (40 points)

\*Topic = the name of the person you are going to write about

\*Thesis statement = a complete sentence telling me what aspect of your poet's life and work you will focus on

\*Outline = see next page

## **Outline:**

Topic Name (space)
Thesis Statement (space)
I. Point one about the author's life and/or work
A. Supporting detail 1
B. Supporting detail 2 (you must have at least 2 supporting details per point)
C. Supporting detail 3
II. Point two about the author's life and/or work
A. Supporting detail 1
B. Supporting detail 2 (sometimes you might want additional information under a detail)
1. Additional information on detail 2
2. Additional information on detail 2
C. Supporting detail 2
III. Point three about the author's life and/or work
A. Supporting detail 1
B. Supporting detail 2

## **Sample Outline:**

Forgotten Heroes
During the U.S. Civil War, African-American soldier played a vital, yet often unrecognized and unappreciated, role in the Union Army's victory.
I. History of African-American soldiers
A. Rejection at beginning of war
B. Authorization of first units – 1862
C. Emancipation Proclamation – 1863
II. Discrimination against African-American soldiers
III. Courage of African-American soldiers
A. 54 <sup>th</sup> Massachusetts
1. Battle at Fort Wagner
2. Medal of Honor winner
B. Other regiments

**Outline Guidelines:** due \_\_\_\_\_ (15 points)

Your outline must exactly follow the guidelines set forth on the previous page. Remember, each "A" must have a "B," just as each "1" must have a "2."

**Rough Draft Guidelines:** due \_\_\_\_\_ (20 points)

1. Does the essay address the topic chosen by the student?
  2. Is the thesis statement included in the first paragraph?
  3. Are all of the ideas throughout the essay related to the thesis statement, or are there some unrelated ideas that distract the reader?
  4. Does each body paragraph of the essay contain just one main idea?
  5. Is the main idea in each body paragraph supported with at least two sentences? (Ways to show support of a main idea include using sensory details, facts from a text, statistics, or examples.)
  6. Are the ideas arranged in the best possible order?
  7. Are the connections between ideas clear?
  8. Does the writing contain clichés?
  9. Are unfamiliar terms explained or defined?
  10. Does the language fit the audience (teacher) and purpose (to inform)?
  11. Do all of the sentences read smoothly?
  12. Is the writing interesting?
  13. Are there parenthetical citations within the body?
  14. Is there a works cited page included?
  15. Are there at least five sources listed on the works cited page?
- \* Your graded rough draft must be turned in with your final manuscript copy.

**Manuscript (Final) Copy Guidelines:** due \_\_\_\_\_ (40 points)

1. Does the paper follow MLA format (see below)?
  - 1a. Does the essay have an appropriate title centered at the top of the first page?
  - 1b. Is the student's name, class and grade, teacher's name, and date in the upper left-hand corner? Is this information double spaced?
  - 1c. Are the pages numbered?
  - 1d. Is the body of the paper double spaced?
  - 1e. Are there one-inch margins on all sides of the paper?

continued on next page...

2. Is there a Works Cited page attached as the last page of the essay?
  - 2a. Is the information on the Works Cited page in alphabetical order?
  - 2b. Is the first line of each citation flush with the left margin?
  - 2c. Are subsequent lines of each citation indented five spaces?
  - 2d. Are there at least five sources, with a maximum of two from the Internet?
  - 2e. Is the information for each source listed in the proper order according to the guidelines set forth by MLA?
3. Is the font size for the entire essay 13 or smaller?
4. Is only one side of the sheet of paper used?
5. Is it typed in blue or black ink?
6. Is the first line of each paragraph indented five spaces?
7. Are all pages neat and clean with no scratch-outs? (A little Liquid Paper is okay.)
8. Is the entire essay stapled together (including the Works Cited page)?
9. Have you turned in your hand-written notes and your graded rough draft with this final manuscript copy?

*Please feel free to ask any questions you might have about this assignment. I hope you enjoy your research, and remember that doing a good job on a tough assignment like this one will give you a wonderful sense of accomplishment when you are finished! ☺*