

## **Authorial Research Project – Due 12/21**

Authors provide written accounts of the times they write in that let us know how life was in the past, how life is represented by the culture they live in, how life and culture have changed since they wrote, and how it has stayed the same in some respects. With this in mind, it is important to know about the authors themselves and why they wrote the things they did.

For this project, you will be writing a research paper about the life and works of one author from the cultural region you are from, and presenting your research to the class. Your paper must include:

- Title page with a title for your paper, your name, the name of your teacher, the class period, and the date the paper is due.
- Page numbers on each page.
- A Works Cited page. Remember, this is a research paper, so you'll be required to RESEARCH. This means using online sources, books, encyclopedias, etc. to find out information. This also means you need to CITE whenever you introduce something you found in one of your sources. For this project, a minimum of THREE sources should be used.
- MLA Style for EVERYTHING.

Part 1 – Intro, life and times, etc.

- Introductory paragraph meant to draw the reader into the research paper and present the reader with some idea of where you're going with your paper. (one paragraph)
- When and where the author was born. Briefly discuss the political climate of their country at his or her time of birth and childhood. (approximately 2 or more paragraphs)
- The author's educational background. Did he or she have a formal education? If not, discuss the impact of this lack of education on his or her writing style and themes. (approximately 2 or more paragraphs)
- The author's personal / political / philosophical and/or religious life. Discuss the major highlights of your author's life; their political leanings and/or undertakings; their philosophical and/or religious beliefs. (approximately 4 or more paragraphs)
- Any major awards or achievements throughout the author's lifetime. These can be formally awarded medals or achievements with only intrinsic awards (i.e. being the first woman to do something). (approximately one or more paragraphs)
- Make sure to make some mention of the author's death and the circumstances surrounding their death somewhere in this section of the paper.

Part 2 – Themes, works, major work synopsis

- Common themes present in the author's works (What types of things does he or she write about most frequently?). (approximately 3 or more paragraphs)

- A discussion of one work for which the author is most well known. Include a short synopsis of the text. Evaluate the text in terms of themes to convey why the work was/is influential and meaningful. (approximately 2 or more paragraphs)
- Elements that make your writer's style unique. Include a quote that showcases this unique style. (approximately 1 or more paragraphs)

### Part 3 – Lasting impression, conclusion

- The lasting impression your author has made on the literary world. What is his or her legacy? Which authors were subsequently influenced by your author? (approximately 3 or more paragraphs)
- Concluding paragraph (one paragraph)

We will have class time to do some research, but you should also be working on this at home. Start early so you can space the different parts out instead of writing the whole paper at once.

## Authorial Research Paper Presentation Requirements

The presentation is going to be simple. I want you to be able to tell me just enough about your author to get other students interested in the person you have been studying. My hopes are that by hearing about different authors and different texts they have written, you might be inspired to want to read something that you might not have been interested in before.

In order to get a good grade on this presentation, these are the following items your presentation must cover:

**1. Who is your author and when did they write?**

Example: "My author was Nicole Polizzi and she was an American author who wrote during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century." Or "My author was Paul DelVecchio and he began writing in the 1970's and he is still writing novels today."

**2. A little about their background. Make sure to include places, family, religion/philosophy, politics, etc.**

Example: "Edward Cullen was raised in Harlem, Massachusetts. His parents were devout Illuminati and he grew up very religious because of that. When Cullen was 12 he fell off of his bike and broke his spleen, causing him to wear diapers until he was 23. Because of his accident, he never married young Bella Swan, the girl of his dreams. Although I was unable to find anything out about his political life, his accident and his Illuminati upbringing are major themes carried on throughout all of Cullen's works."

**3. Talk about the major themes in your author's works.**

Example: "The major theme that is discussed in Patrick T. Starfish's works is that of man versus nature. He wants people to realize just how much we don't know about nature and the mysteries it might hold (like Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman, talking yellow sponges, the Loch Ness Monster, and the infamous chupacabra)."

**4. Summarize your author's major work, including its genre, making sure to show how the theme you just talked about is expressed in this work.**

Example: "Brian T. Dog's masterpiece, *Family Guy*, written in 1802, is a science fiction novel about the Griffin family and their struggles as British patriots through the American Revolution. The brave Peter and his loving wife Lois must find ways to stay loyal to the British crown while the populace around them is beginning to turn more and more pro-independence. It isn't until their youngest son, Stewie, is burnt at the stake as a witch that the family finally realizes the importance of owning a unicorn. *Family Guy* demonstrates the theme of Man vs. Nature in that no matter how strong you think you are magical unicorns are always going to be better chess players."

**5. Why is your author so dang important?**

Example: "Lady Gaga's novels and her personal life have caused many people to reconsider just how important it is to make sure that circus prejudices do not prevail in our society today. Her dedication to the freedom of all side-show freaks and circus clowns is recognized every day her novels are read in high school classrooms around the world."

You must include a slide presentation to show to us as we listen to you.

### Grading Rubric

Were all five questions/statements covered thoroughly?	30 points possible
Were you clear in communicating to your audience?	10 points possible
Audience's feedback.	5 points possible
Did you complete feedback forms for other students?	5 points possible