

Name _____
 S. DeCarlo
 ENGL1010-_____

English Literature Independent Study Project—1st semester

Assignment rationale: Students completing Shelby County Schools' English IV *Standard* course are introduced to a wide array of texts and authors of English literature. *Extraordinary* students who are enrolled in the dual enrollment English class should therefore have meaningful interaction with as many of these texts and authors as possible.

While our desire is for you to be more prepared for college English classes than your peers, we realize that it is not in your best interest to be required to fulfill requirements for both classes. We believe, however, the completion of one focused research, reading, writing, and presentation assignment per semester will provide you with a strong foundation on which to build any future English courses you enter. Further, sharing this information with other dual enrollment students will provide all of you with a broad base of knowledge, far outweighing the experience of students outside the dual enrollment program.

General requirements:

- Choose a topic from the list presented in class
- Complete some general reading about the topic
- Read and annotate a major text associated with the topic
- Read some critical analyses of the text, author, and/or topic
- Prepare written and media representations of your experience

Specific requirements:

- _____ 1. Sign up for a topic. Write it here: _____
- _____ 2. If you are sharing this topic with others, write their names, periods, and contact information here:

- _____ 3. Begin and maintain an Independent Study Work Log, tracking the tasks and time spent in the completion of this project (sample received separately).
- _____ 4. General reading: Locate at least two introductory articles (secondary sources) about your topic or author. Prepare an annotated bibliography entry for each article (guidelines received separately).
- _____ 5. Choose a major text, or group of texts (primary sources), that adequately represents your topic. Write it here: _____
 This text must be approved by the instructor. Have it approved here: _____
- _____ 6. Read and annotate your chosen text. While you are reading for general content (plot), also note major themes and/or cultural and authorial connections.
- _____ 7. Prepare a 500-1000 word original synopsis of the text(s). Keep in mind that this document will be kept on file as your original work; it may also be available to other students who might choose to read this text at a later date.

_____ 8. Locate and read at least two critical analyses (secondary sources) of your topic, text, and/or author. Prepare an annotated bibliography entry for each article (guidelines received separately).

_____ 9. Write a 3-page essay utilizing your previous work in this project.

The rhetorical analysis for this essay is as follows:

Purpose: to convince the reader that this text/topic/author is a worthy topic for study, either because of its lasting impact on civilization, the English language, or English literature, or because of its portrayal of the customs, characters, or historical events and figures of the time period in which it was written

Audience: high school seniors, freshman and sophomore college students

Format: formal essay supported with primary and secondary sources (minimum of three citations each), following MLA guidelines for format and citation

Occasion: justification for the continued study of your topic/text/author

_____ 10. Prepare a comprehensive media presentation of your work.

Required: a one-sheet (front and back) digest of your entire project. Fit as much information on this one sheet as possible! This is the sheet we will copy for every student in the dual enrollment classes. Get creative, and try to make it informative, interesting, and appealing. If you are working with other students, you will produce one common sheet and (possibly) one individual sheet.

Choices: general information about the author, text, topic, and/or critical analyses. Use a logical and appropriate mix of media and technology, such as video, podcast, PowerPoint, original artwork, etc. This material will be presented to other students during a *Festival of English Literature* and perhaps maintained for future students. Again, get creative, and try to make it informative, interesting, and appealing. And if you are working with other students, you will work together on this segment.

Specific guidelines for submission and grading of this project will follow.