

This essay will be 1200-1500 words in Times New Roman size 12 or Cambria size 12, double-spaced, following MLA format and conventions for citations and documentations. Remember to upload the essay to Turnitin.com (Class ID: 5851003; Password: 12345) by 12/28 at 9:00 AM.

Historical/Thematic Essay Topics

Native/Settler Issues: Accounts and Depictions of Presence and Conflict; Use the following clusters to develop the historical background of attitudes of the time from both sides in dealing with a work of literature from the textbook that has native/settler themes:

- First Encounters: Early European Accounts of Native America (Vol. A)
- Native Americans: Contact and Conflict (Vol. A)
- Native Americans: Removal and Resistance (Vol. B).

Readings: Mary Rowlandson's "A Narrative of the Captivity and Restoration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson" (257) and various others as assigned or discussed in class.

Religious Roles: Upbringings and Perspectives; Investigate the differences, and ultimate blending, of Pilgrims and Puritans. Use this background to understand either Winthrop's "model" (166) and Edwards's "sinners" (430) or any of the various other readings as assigned or discussed in class.

Political Pamphleteering: Discontent and Calls to Action via the Printing Press; Investigate the role of the printing press in spreading "awareness" to laying the foundation of an "American Dream". Use any of the assigned political writings of Paine, Franklin, Jefferson, the Adams's, etc. In addition, use the following cluster:

- Section, Region, Nation, Hemisphere (Vol. B).

The Slave Narrative: "Skating Thin Ice" around Religion and Politics; Show how the writer of a slave narrative needed to blend the roles of religion and politics with tact and effort. Use any of the assigned narratives (such as Equiano, Douglass, Jacobs, etc.) with the following cluster:

- Slavery, Race, and the Making of American Literature (Vol. B)

Special note: I will be looking for a fluid discussion of developing contextual background necessary to understand specific selections of the chosen text(s) in question OR how selections of the chosen text(s) reveal/conceal insights about the historical moment. The premise of this essay is to situate a text or texts in its own time and issues, not merely our own understanding of it today.

The grading criteria are to be found on the syllabus under the section of Instructor Grading Criteria. The instructor is available before and after class as well as via e-mail for help and suggestions.