

English 2327-Spring Mini 2012/13 (Huntington)

Final Out-of-class Essay: DUE in Turnitin.com by Saturday 12 noon!

The Assignment: In a 1200-1500 word essay (MLA format), the student is to demonstrate the ability to argue an interpretation of a literary text or texts (focused choices from Volume B) based on analyzing the uses of literary elements (characterization, themes, symbols, points-of-view, conflict, etc.). Below are several options to choose from:

Option 1: Choose **one major work** (in length): Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself*, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Fall of the House of Usher" or "The Raven", Herman Melville's "Bartleby, the Scrivener", Henry David Thoreau's *Walden*, Ralph Waldo Emerson's *Nature*, etc. and analyze several elements within the one work and discuss how the elements identified and analyzed work together to create a "significant" meaning. Support your interpretation.

Option 2: Analyze various writings from **one author** (Nathaniel Hawthorne, Washington Irving, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Edgar Allan Poe, Emily Dickinson, Walt Whitman, etc.) and offer an "interpretative" evaluation of the works. In other words, when works are looked at as a "whole", rather than on one piece only, it can show themes, characters, symbols, etc. re-appear to create an artistic "vision". Analyze and interpret an "overarching theme" of the writer's. Support your interpretation.

Option 3: Compare and/or contrast **genres of writing** over the entire time period of the term: Poetry (example: Anne Bradstreet with Emily Dickinson or Walt Whitman, Philip Freneau with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow or William Cullen Bryant, etc.), Short Stories (Cotton Mather's "The Wonders of the Invisible World" and Charles Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly* with Washington Irving, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and/or Edgar Allan Poe) OR within Volume B itself (Emerson or Thoreau with Hawthorne or Melville, Dickinson with Whitman)

Grading Criteria: Thesis and Support thereof (Idea Development): 40%, Organization and "Flow" (Logical transitions, topic sentences) 30%, Clarity of Expression (Grammar and Punctuation) 20%, MLA Format (Spacing, Titles, Headings, In-text Citations, Documentation) 10%