

## BRITISH LITERATURE RESEARCH PROJECT {SOL: 12.8A-E}

**Purpose:** A research paper is a common form of academic writing. Research papers require writers to locate information about a topic (that is, to conduct *research*), take a stand on that topic, and provide support (or evidence) for that position in an organized report.

**Task:** Your job is to choose one of the following topics that deal with British Literature and write a research paper on it. The paper requirements include: MLA format, typed, at least three-four credible sources quoted and paraphrased in the paper, and a Works Cited page. This paper should be a minimum of 3-4 pages.

### Essay Set-Up

#### Introduction:

- \*Immediately engage the reader (**attention getter**)  
~get the reader “in the ballpark”
- \*Strong & complete **thesis statement (can be anywhere in the first paragraph)**
- \*Establish **context** (topic of essay)  
~usually 2-3 sentences narrowing down to the point of the paper  
~cite your source with title and/or author

#### Body:

- \*Begin paragraphs with a clear, concise **topic sentence**
  - ~Use **concrete details (CD)**
  - ~these include facts or quotes
  - ~cite sources when necessary (simplified: such as author’s last name & pg #)
  - ~Create **insightful commentary to support** concrete details (2-3 comments per CD)
  - ~shoot for at least 2 CD per paragraph (+ commentary)

#### Conclusion:

- \*Transition into summary of key points
  - ~Restate thesis (say it another way!)
  - ~Refer back to the attention getter and tie things up
- \*Answer “So what?”
  - ~Leave the reader feeling challenged by new insight into the topic.
  - ~This is a good place to make a universal comment or observation about the topic.

**Suggested sentence starter for commentary:**

“This shows that...”  
“This proves that...”  
“This demonstrates that...”

**Suggested sentence starters for conclusion:**

“We need to...”  
“It is our responsibility to ...”  
“It is important to...”  
“In order to \_\_\_\_\_, we must...”  
“It would be to our benefit to...”

**Suggested sentence starters for counter:**

“On the other hand, some people believe \_\_\_\_\_...”  
“One may argue \_\_\_\_\_; however, \_\_\_\_\_...”

**Encourage:**

- \*Incorporate transitions
- \*Use high-level vocabulary
- \*Vary sentence patterns
- \*Create a strong “voice”
- \*Show a logical argument throughout

**GUIDING RULES FOR MECHANICS & REQUIREMENTS**

1. Do not use first person (“I”) or second person (“you”) in the introductory area or the body paragraphs; however, you can use “I” in the conclusion area.
2. Do not write, “In this paper, I will discuss...”
3. Avoid the use of contractions (“didn’t” for “did not”) UNLESS part of a direct quotation.
4. Watch your subject-verb agreement; this must agree in number (singular subjects need singular verbs; plural subjects need plural verbs).
5. Watch your pronoun-antecedent (noun being referred to) agreement; this must agree in gender and number (Example: *Annie’s* book = *her* book {singular & feminine})
6. Be sure to provide a **creative title** for your essay.
7. Each paragraph needs to have a **minimum of five sentences**, complete with proper capitalization and punctuation. If you can, try for a total of six to seven sentences per paragraph.
8. **YOU MUST USE A MINIMUM OF THREE-FOUR SOURCES TO SUPPORT THE EVIDENCE YOU HAVE PRESENTED; THESE MUST BE NOTED IN THE TEXT OF THE PAPER AS IN-TEXT DOCUMENTATION, WHERE NECESSARY, AND YOU MUST ALSO INCLUDE A WORKS CITED PAGE AT THE END OF THE TEXT OF YOUR PAPER ON A SEPARATE SHEET.**



**Prewriting:** Using the Thesis-Outline model, list specific reasons (evidence) as to why you are recommending a change to the chosen proposal or its specifics. Include support, yours and others, for your reasons so that the person who is reading your essay understands the importance of the necessary change you are proposing. Then, organize the details into a sequence. **Your prewriting is due on March 25, 2022 and is worth 30 points.**

**Drafting:** Use your Outline as the basis for drafting your essay. Your essay needs to be a minimum of five paragraphs. Add supporting details that will support why you believe your proposal needs to be seriously considered; also consider actions a person has taken in the past that you may not agree with wholeheartedly. **Your rough draft is due on April 7, 2022 and is worth 50 points.**

**Revising:** As we will be using Google Docs (Classroom Google), via the Chrome Books, once your essay has been reviewed, you may begin revisions on it. **Your final copy is due on April 20, 2022 and is worth 100 points.**

### **British Literature Research Paper Topics**

**Directions:** Choose one of the following topics to write a research paper on. The paper requirements include: MLA format, typed, at least three-four credible sources quoted and paraphrased in the paper, and a Works Cited page. This paper should be a minimum of 3-4 pages.

1. The term tragic hero refers to a central character who has an authoritative status in the drama, but through a flaw in his or her character brings about his or her demise. The flaw may consist of a poor decision that is made and creates a situation the character cannot change or control. The tragic hero recognizes his or her flaw, however there is nothing that can be done to avert tragedy. Macbeth is seen as a tragic hero. Write a paper tracing the sequence of events that contribute to Macbeth's demise and tragic end.
2. In Chaucer's "The Pardoner's Tale", what theme or central message about corruption do you think Chaucer conveys in this story? How does it still hold true today? BE SURE TO USE DIRECT EXAMPLES FROM THE STORY.
3. The term tragic hero refers to a central character who has an authoritative status in the drama, but through a flaw in his or her character brings about his or her demise. The flaw may consist of a poor decision that is made and creates a situation the character cannot change or control. The tragic hero recognizes his or her flaw, however there is nothing that can be done to avert tragedy. Victor Frankenstein is seen as a tragic hero. Write a paper tracing the sequence of events that contribute to Victor Frankenstein's demise and tragic end.

4. In Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, Justice Wargrave feels that some of the guests on Soldier Island are guiltier of murder than others because of the degrees to which they were responsible for the deaths that took place in their pasts. Do you agree that there are degrees of responsibility that can be assigned to those involved in a death? Write a persuasive essay that uses examples from the book, examples from real life, and/or hypothetical examples to support why you feel the way you do.
  
5. How is the murder mystery genre illustrated by current TV offerings? Examine an episode or two of a popular TV show wherein the characters solve a murder crime over the course of the show. What are these characters like, and what kinds of motives exist for those who commit the crimes? How does the show you're examining recall or differ from *And Then There Were None*? Why do you think many viewers respond favorably to these kinds of viewing experiences? Write a research essay that offers answers to these questions.

