Steps in the writing process
1. Inventing & Collecting
   (Prewriting & research, pp. 28-29)
2. Organizing
   (Outlining, p. 29)
3. Drafting
   (First time in paragraph form, p. 29)
4. Revising
   (Editing: adding, cutting, moving, pp. 29-30)
5. Proofreading
   (Checking grammar, spelling, etc., pp. 30-31)

The College Research Paper
Part I: Getting Things Started

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:
Write a 1,900- to 2,100-word research paper providing a critical analysis of a classic literary work from the provided list. You might analyze the work in relation to its author’s life, to its historical context, to a myth, or to its author’s or protagonist’s gender. The options are innumerable; consider the critical approaches we will discuss on August 27.
Submit your topic and group members’ names on MyHCC before our next class begins.

The essential steps in writing a research paper (pp. 64-97)
1. Choosing a topic (formulating a research question)
2. Finding sources
3. Evaluating sources
4. Taking notes
5. Developing a thesis
6. Organizing an outline
7. Writing drafts
8. Revising
9. Documenting sources
10. Preparing the final draft and proofreading

1. Choosing a topic (formulating a research question) (pp. 65 and 73)
   • Select a literary work(s) that genuinely interests you. Even if the work you choose is short, the assignment won’t be easy if you are not enjoying the topic.
   • Be sure that the topic you choose can be adequately covered in 1,900 to 2,100 words.
   • Choose a topic for which you will find plenty of scholarly resources.

1. Choosing a topic (formulating a research question) (pp. 65 and 73)
   As you read the novel, take notes, mark the text, and ask yourself questions:
   • What is the theme or point the book is making?
   • Why is it making this point?
   • How is it making this point?
   • Why does the author make certain choices (about setting, characters, word choices, plot)?
   • Are the results effective?
2. Finding sources (pp. 65-66 and 73-75)

- Use the databases that the librarian will discuss at our library orientation to find peer-reviewed [EXPERT] sources.
- Google and sites like Wikipedia or Bookrags.com may seem like easy places to get a general overview of your topic, but they CANNOT be used as cited sources in your paper!
- Start reading and thinking NOW!

3. Evaluating sources (pp. 66-68 and 77-78)

- A source is only worth using if it is reliable and provides quality, expert evidence.
- Be sure your sources are up to date and well documented with primary and secondary materials.
- If you must use online sources outside of the databases, be sure to determine their nature and authority! (Get my OK.)

Let’s say I’m researching Emily Brontë’s Wuthering Heights. My first instinct is to go to Google. Is this a good idea?
How about this one?

More info from that site.

How about this one?

How about this one?

How about this one?

And this one?

ARE YOU AWAKE? THIS ONE IS REALLY IMPORTANT!
None of those eleven sites is usable!

You need information from experts who have really studied that work in depth. Think of your research paper as surgery. Do you want to get information from just anyone? No, you want the best experts with lots of experience.

3. Evaluating sources (pp. 66-68 and 77-78)

So, where do you find usable, reliable, expert secondary sources?

In the library’s databases!

To find out where to access the databases and how to use them efficiently, be sure that you attend our library orientation on Sept. 3!

4. Taking notes (pp. 69-70 and 78-81)

- Record bibliographic information as you take notes so that it will be there when you’re ready to start citing.
- Follow the MLA format in your textbook (pp. 84-97) or MLA handbook. (Double-check the databases’ formatting of citations!)
- Use a dictionary as you read. (dictionary.com, bartleby.com, m-w.com)
5. Developing a thesis [p. 81]

- As you read the book, begin to develop a research question and working thesis statement (due on MyHCC Sept. 3 and 22).
- Use a tentative thesis to get started, but remember that it may change as your research progresses.
- Remember that your thesis must make an arguable claim that requires support (not just state a fact).

If you are having trouble getting started, try this fill-in-the-blanks thesis statement:

By presenting/revealing/using/doing (what?) in (title of book), (author’s name) suggests/indicates/reveals (what?) about humanity/human nature/the big picture.

The Thesis Statement

To decide on a controlling idea (the “What?” from the previous slide), you might consider the reading strategies discussed in pages 43-58 [read before Aug. 27]:

- **Formalist** (How does the language or style used affect the reader?)
- **Psychoanalytical** (Is there anything Freudian/subconscious in the work? Why?)
- **Historical** (How did or does the time period affect the writer or reader?)
- **Gender** (Does the work have a feminist or homosexual level of meaning?)
- **Mythological** (Does the work echo a universal story? If so, why?)
- **Biographical** (How does the work reflect aspects of the author’s life?)

We'll cover the rest in future classes:

6. Organizing an outline (p. 81 and 102-103)
7. Writing drafts (pp. 81-82)
8. Revising (pp. 81-82)
9. Documenting sources (pp. 82-97)
10. Preparing the final draft and proofreading

Where can you go for additional help?

**Academic Success Center:**
YLRC 105, BACA 207, or DLRC 312

**My Office:** YADM 108

**Phone:** 813-259-6470

**Email:** jbielecki@hccfl.edu

**Websites** (links on MyHCC):
- **SmarThinking** (access through hccfl.edu)
- **Library Guide for this course** (http://libguides.hccfl.edu/bielecki)
- **Re: Writing** (http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rewriting/)
- **http://owl.english.purdue.edu**

**DEFINE THESE LITERARY TERMS** (50 points)

Using your textbook's glossary, write definitions to these terms on the handout. These definitions are due Tuesday, Aug. 25, as a hard copy at the start of class.

1. alliteration
2. allusion
3. climax
4. conflict
5. connotation
6. denotation
7. diction
8. exposition
9. foot
10. foreshadowing
11. image, imagery
12. irony
13. metaphor
14. meter
15. overstatement / hyperbole
16. personification
17. resolution / conclusion / dénouement
18. rising action / falling action
19. simile
20. speaker / narrator / persona
21. stanza
22. symbol
23. theme
24. tone
25. understatement