1. The format of the research paper will follow the general response essay guide (see handout) pertaining to layout, font size, and presentation. This paper is less an analysis and more an exercise in how well you follow the rules for citing and documenting a research paper, as well as your mechanics and style in academic writing.

2. The research paper will follow the format of citation and bibliographic reference of sources as set forth in the MLA section of The Little Brown Handbook. Otherwise, purchase a style manual or visit the writing center.

3. ALL SECONDARY SOURCES USED IN THE RESEARCH PAPER MUST BE CITED. Plagiarism will result in an F grade for the paper. When you select a secondary source to quote, you must PARENTHETICALLY CITE the source. You must parenthetically cite or if you are paraphrasing (using your own words) another person’s ideas or conclusions.

4. The paper will be no less than 1500 words in length. This does not include the works cited or bibliography page. Short papers, papers not following the format, etc., will be considered unsatisfactory. The word count must be in brackets at the end of the essay.

5. Your essay must include at least 3 secondary sources such as the NCLC*, TCLC, CLC, or SSC, Poetry Criticism or other critical volumes located in the HCC Library stacks as well as any primary source (the story, poem, or play itself) you have read and commented on in your paper. For the author biography the DLB Dictionary of Literary Biography (Mott volumes) is suggested. Encyclopedic entries are not to be used as a secondary source.
   
   NOTE: THE INTERNET IS NOT TO BE USED FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT. ALL CRITICAL SOURCES ARE TO BE GATHERED FROM THE LITERARY CRITICISM REFERENCE COLLECTION IN THE CAMPUS LIBRARY.* Do not cite web pages in your bibliography.

6. THE RESEARCH PAPER IS DUE ON EXAM DAY, NO EXCEPTIONS. You cannot pass this course without submitting a research paper. If you wish the paper to be returned to you, include a SASE with the paper. As always, if you have any questions, see me before you begin your paper. If you need help organizing, editing, or documenting the paper, go to the writing center.

7. Your research paper will be on an author you select from the list distributed in class. If you wish to write on an author not on the list, you must have approval from me. The paper will cover the following topics (usually in this order):

   - the author’s life and background (a brief summary)
   - why the author is considered important within the canon
   - critical views of the author’s works
   - a comment by you on a work(s) by the author you have read
   - a comment about what value this author’s writing has that pertains to your life in particular, or the world in general

* Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism, Twentieth Century Literary Criticism, Contemporary Literary Criticism, and Short Story Criticism are multi-volume reference books containing critical articles written about literature. They are located in the Literature section of the library here and at the USF Library.

The canon is a body of work, specifically literature.

You are to quote critics. Since the quotes are liable to be more than three or four sentences, you need to block quote the criticism you find. The criticism should be on works that you have read by the author. If you have read only one book, story, or poem by that author, the criticism should be on that work.

You should also look for criticism which answers the questions about the importance of the author and/or why the author is worth reading.

You should list all the volumes in the bibliography where you found criticism used in your paper.

The research paper is in three parts: a biography of your author, criticism, and comments by you on what you have read.