

AP English Literature and Composition

Synthesis / Research Paper

Requirements:

- 6-10 pages (typed, double-spaced)
- standard MLA format for quotations and documenting sources, (both internal parenthetical citations and a Works Cited page which acknowledges the three essays and any poems or other sources used)
- use specific quotations from the text(s) with accompanying analysis
- maintain standard rules of paragraph construction (i.e. topic sentences, supporting quotations, appropriate transitions)
- essay should be guided by an argumentative/analytical thesis statement
- IMPORTANT DATES:

ü Friday Feb. 21: Round-Table discussion of papers (You will discuss your progress. Each of you will give a brief summary of the poems and articles you will be incorporating into your synthesis and your initial argument. Other students will comment on your proposed ideas and make helpful suggestions as to the direction you should go. You may also ask fellow classmates about the clarity of your argument, etc.

ü Tuesday, Feb 28: FINAL PAPER DUE

NOTE: UP TO TEN POINTS WILL AUTOMATICALLY BE DEDUCTED FROM ESSAYS THAT DO NOT CONFORM TO PROPER MLA GUIDELINES. This includes incorrect formatting (headers, margins, etc.), incorrect parenthetical citations, or a Works Cited page that does not adhere to MLA guidelines. Be very careful!

***Topic:**

Analyze a MINIMUM of FOUR poems written by Langston Hughes and one

scholarly article about Hughes or his works. Comment upon the aforementioned in the context of the three essays by Langston Hughes (“The Negro Artist and the Racial Mountain,” “My Adventures as a Social Poet,” and “To Negro Writers”). Use the essays as evaluation tools. One possible topic is to discuss the messages Hughes has for Negro artists/writers, both in his poetry and in his essays, the concept of “social poetry” and the continued need (or lack of need) for such poetry. Or create a topic of your own that meets the same criteria for materials used.