

American Literature Mini-Senior Project

As we start a new literary period representing the expansion of America, you will be doing a tri-part project resembling the senior project of next year. This project will include the following items:

- a two-three page research essay, double spaced, MLA style quoting and citing two-three researched sources which must include one book source (150 points),
- a creative artifact representing your research (50 points), and
- a classroom presentation of your research (50 points).

You will be choosing topics relating to influential events, figures, and inventions of the literary time period of realism. Or if you so desire, you may select a more modern individual that was influenced by the characteristics/characters of this period – The renewed focus should then be not a biography, but a reflection and research that demonstrates how this person is/was founded on the influences of the literary period. This essay will be an expository or informative essay. Your thesis must state how your subject/person/etc. represents or expresses the literary period. Your literary period chart lists “Realism” as a time when “rural life gave way to industrialization and larger cities. Authors focused on the often cruel realities of this new world.”

Below is a list of the different types of “Creative Artifacts” from which you may choose. Your artifact must demonstrate your mastery of research on the topic. Please see detailed descriptions of requirements for most choices listed. If you can think of another product that you would be interested in creating, please see me for approval.

Group 1: Visual with Words	Group 2: Informational
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Travel Brochure• Cartoon• Comic strip• Drawn Pictures• Photographs in album	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Map• Collage (using color theory or other)• Cereal box with text• Billboards• Scrapbook pages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Game board• Timeline• Pamphlet/brochure• Book jacket• 3-D model• Diorama• Replica

EXPECTATIONS OF GENRES

Group 1: Visual with Words

***Must resemble the actual visual

- **Travel Brochure** – must be in color, include minimum of 3 images that accurately depict the location with 5 sentences each (15 total) describing the image and why one would want to travel to the chosen place
- **Cartoon/Comic strip** – must include color, minimum of 10 boxes with text in each.
- **Drawn Pictures** – minimum of 10 pictures including a description for each (can be on the back of the picture)
- **Photographs in album** – minimum of 15 photos (accurate to the time) with a minimum of 1 complete sentence caption for each photo.
- **Map** – must include color, minimum of 5 locations with a picture of each location, and a legend that details what was found or happened in that location (minimum of 1 sentence each)
- **Collage** – Minimum of 20 images and 15 words and/or phrases
- **Cereal box with text** – must be in color, include name of cereal that incorporates topic, images, minimum of 10 “ingredients,” 5 fun facts about your topic, and some sort of game or activity that would be found on a cereal box.
- **Billboards** – must be in color, your choices include constructing a billboard with a base that includes at least 1 image with text **OR** creating a minimum of 10 separate image billboards, each with text.
- **Scrapbook** – must neatly display work on a 12 x 12 scrapbook sheet, page thoroughly covers topic, images cover most of the page, minimal words are used and are only used as captions and titles (2 pages)

Group 2: Informational

- **Game board** – Must create game with a minimum of 20 items/questions/elements relevant to topic with a game instruction sheet with all necessary information in order to play and win the game.
- **Timeline** – Must have a minimum of 10 events, include color and images for each date, and must have at least one complete sentence to describe each event.
- **Pamphlet/brochure** – Create a pamphlet or brochure (many templates are available online or you can use Windows Publisher if you have it) with a minimum of 3 pictures and at least 5 sentences to describe each picture; brochure should detail person, place, or event relevant to your topic and use appropriate language.
- **Book jacket** – Must create an authentic-looking book jacket with cover art, an original title and author name, and a back cover with a creative “book summary” of 10 sentences minimum.
- **3-D Model/Diorama/Replica** – Creation must be detailed and representative of topic – it may have symbolic representations present – and it must include a description of final product and the inspiration behind it of 10 sentences minimum.

***If you can think of any other type of product that you might like to create, let me know. I will add it to your options.