

# imagine

THIRD QUARTER RESEARCH



## *Synthesizing the Effect of the Natural World*

So, what do you have to do?

Over the last few weeks you've read selections from *Walden*, Thoreau's masterpiece of transcendentalism. As synthesis research practice you will identify a theme, idea or issue from *Walden* that is universal and identify its influence on contemporary society. You'll conduct your research and produce your iMovie and podcast with a small group. Your group will also

write a paper and annotated bibliography that explains your choices.

Argue what you want to say about the universal theme using:

- Poetry
- Music
- Art
- Advertising
- Essay
- Speech
- Fiction
- Film & television

### the requirements:

<a href="#">iMovie</a>	2
<a href="#">podcast</a>	2
<a href="#">research format</a>	3
<a href="#">annotated bibliography</a>	4

Seminar 10



# 2008

All of your work in seminar should be of the best quality. A rubric for each of the components of this project will be distributed and you should plan your resources and time so that you can earn an "A" for this research project.

# Planning

For your planning purposes, here is a calendar of important dates for this assignment.

All editing must take place in class though

february

12 or 13

begin group planning - begin thesis statement  
begin story boards and scripts  
  
group research and work time

13 or 14

group research and work time  
- story boards and scripts should be nearing completion

15

group research and work time  
- story boards and scripts should be nearing completion

february

19-22

group research and work time  
- story boards and scripts should be complete  
group filming & editing time with direct supervision, feedback, and support from the teacher

22

group filming & editing time with direct supervision, feedback, and support from the teacher  
PODCASTS DUE in class & exported with file copied onto Larissa's external drive

25-29

group filming & editing time with direct supervision, feedback, and support from the teacher

march

3

films must be complete & exported into Quicktime for Web with file copied onto Larissa's external drive  
research papers are due

4-6

This week we will watch the iMovies and listen to the podcasts.

Make sure that you communicate with the people in your group and plan your time well. Good luck and ASK for help when you need it!

## How to proceed:

- Interact with the text as you read, annotating in the margins as you identify ideas and themes that seem important
  - Pay attention to the discussions taking place - what do your classmates think about Thoreau's ideas and experience?
  - With your group, identify the specific idea in *Walden* that you want to compare or juxtapose to contemporary American society
    - Create a working thesis that you will prove through contemporary evidence
      - Start finding the evidence to support your thesis
      - Refine your thesis, continually brainstorming ideas for how to communicate Thoreau's ideas
      - Create storyboards and scripts for each media component
      - Begin filming and recording, continually re-evaluating your plan and ensuring that you are proving your thesis

## Video and podcast requirements

- Each of the media components of this assignment is an argument. Argue the messages of *Walden* in a short film and a short podcast (like a radio broadcast except you have the option to add pictures)
  - The specific rubric for each of these is available so instead of telling you exactly what to do I am going to offer you my advice:
    - argue consistently
    - incorporate rhetorical strategies
    - be creative & interesting
    - have fun
    - work hard
    - think about how you are synthesizing the message of a classic work of American literature, a work that has influenced generations
    - put forth your best effort; remember you are in an AP class so your quality of work should be college level



Once you understand the basics of *Walden*, it's time to get your hands dirty. Think about contemporary society. What are typical American values? What might Thoreau think and how would he continue to communicate his message of simplicity and humanity? You know rhetorical modes and strategies, now use them to transcend your typical efforts.



## Requirements:

Your paper is your complete argument. Argue your thesis for how *Walden* relates to contemporary American society. Use the sources you found with your group as evidence supporting your argument.

## General Guidelines for MLA format

- Type your paper on a computer and print it out on standard, white 8.5 x 11-inch paper.
- Double-space the text of your paper, and use a legible font like Times New Roman or Courier.
- Leave only one space after periods or other punctuation marks (unless otherwise instructed by your instructor).
- Set the margins of your document to 1 inch on all sides. Indent the first line of a paragraph one half-inch (five spaces or press tab once) from the left margin.
- Create a header that numbers all pages consecutively in the upper right-hand corner, one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: omit the number on your first page)
- Use either italics or underlining throughout your essay for the titles of longer works and, only when absolutely necessary, providing emphasis.

## Formatting the First Page of Your Paper

- Do not make a title page for your paper.
- In the upper left-hand corner of the first page, list your name, your instructor's name, the course, and the date. Again, be sure to use double-spaced text.
- Double space again and center the title. Don't underline your title or put it in quotation marks; write the title in Title Case, not in all capital letters.
- Use quotation marks and underlining or italics when referring to other works in your title, just as you would in your text, e.g.,  
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas as Morality Play  
Human Weariness in "After Apple Picking"
- Double space between the title and the first line of the text.
- Create a header in the upper right-hand corner that includes your last name, followed by a space with a page number; number all pages consecutively with Arabic numerals (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.), one-half inch from the top and flush with the right margin. (Note: Your instructor or other readers may ask that you omit last name/page number header on your first page. Always follow their guidelines.)

Above information adapted from [OWL at Purdue](#)

## When you start writing:

### Here are a few tips

1. Avoid plagiarism.
  - Develop a topic based on what has already been said and written but write something new and original
  - Rely on opinions of experts and authorities on a topic but improve upon and/or disagree with those same opinions
  - Give credit to researchers who have come before you but make your own significant contribution

2. Thesis statements.

Make a claim about a topic and justifies this claim with specific evidence. The claim could be an opinion, a policy proposal, an evaluation, a cause-and-effect statement, or an interpretation. The goal of the argumentative paper is to convince the audience that the claim is true based on the evidence provided.

3. Outlining

Create an outline before writing your paper to organize your thoughts more easily. Making any kind of outline (even just some jotting down some main ideas) will be beneficial to your writing process.

4. Using rhetorical strategies

There are three types of rhetorical appeals, or persuasive strategies, used in arguments to support claims and respond to opposing arguments. A good argument will generally use a combination of all three appeals to make its case.

5. Conciseness

Concise writing does not always have the fewest words, but it always uses the strongest ones. Writers often fill sentences with weak or unnecessary words that can be deleted or replaced. Words and phrases should be deliberately chosen for the work they are doing. Like bad employees, words that don't accomplish enough should be fired. When only the most effective words remain, writing will be far more concise and readable.

# Creating your annotated bibliography

## Definition

A bibliography is a list of sources (books, journals, websites, periodicals, etc.) one has used for researching a topic. A bibliography usually just includes the bibliographic information (i.e., the author, title, publisher, etc.).

An annotation is a summary and/or evaluation. Therefore, an annotated bibliography includes a summary and/or evaluation of each of the sources. Your annotations will do the following:

**Summarize:** Some annotations merely summarize the source. What are the main arguments? What is the point of this book or article? What topics are covered? If someone asked what this article/book is about, what would you say? The length of your annotations will determine how detailed your summary is.

**Assess:** After summarizing a source, it may be helpful to evaluate it. Is it a useful source? How does it compare with other sources in your bibliography? Is the information reliable? Is it this source biased or objective? What is the goal of this source?

**Reflect:** Once you've summarized and assessed a source, you need to ask how it fits into your research. Was this source helpful to you? How does it help you shape your argument? How can you use this source in your research project? Has it changed how you think about your topic?

## Notes to yourself: