



American Poets

Academic 11 Research Unit

Overview

- To gain biographical knowledge about an American poet and the historical context in which they lived.
- To read, summarize, and analyze one of their poems.
- This is a 100 point assignment and will dominate your qtr 3 grade.
- Must be typed and printed to submit.

Timeline

- February 26th- March 8th Library time to research primary and secondary sources; compile notes; analyze poem; create a sentence outline and works cited
- Outlines and Works Cited due by March 12th



Process

1. Choose an American poet from any period in American history.
2. Conduct research to gain biographical knowledge about the selected poet and the times in which they lived.
3. Select and read one of the poet's works.
4. Analyze the chosen poem, considering its themes, literary devices, and overall impact.
5. Utilize different academic databases, eBooks, and websites to find reliable information about the poet. You need at least 1 of each type.
6. Find textual evidence from both primary and secondary source materials to support your analysis.
7. Compile a sentence outline of the research information, organizing key points about the poet's life and historical context.
8. Create in-text citations and a works cited page to document all sources used in your research.

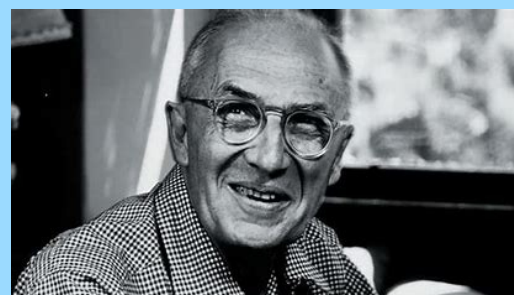
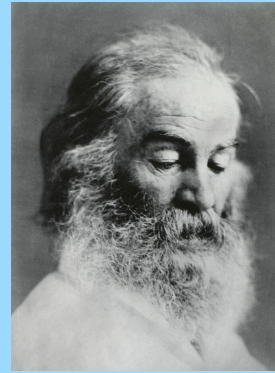


American Poets

List of Authors

This list is in chronological order (oldest to newest):

1. Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672)
2. Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)
3. William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878)
4. Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)
5. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882)
6. Edgar Allan Poe (1809-1849)
7. Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)
8. Walt Whitman (1819-1892)
9. Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)
10. Paul Laurence Dunbar (1872-1906)
11. Robert Frost (1874-1963)
12. Carl Sandburg (1878-1967)
13. Wallace Stevens (1879-1955)
14. William Carlos Williams (1883-1963)
15. E.E. Cummings (1894-1962)
16. Marianne Moore (1887-1972)
17. Langston Hughes (1902-1967)
18. Countee Cullen (1903-1946)
19. Elizabeth Bishop (1911-1979)
20. Robert Lowell (1917-1977)
21. Gwendolyn Brooks (1917-2000)
22. Adrienne Rich (1929-2012)
23. Allen Ginsberg (1926-1997)
24. Anne Sexton (1928-1974)
25. Maya Angelou (1928-2014)
26. Sylvia Plath (1932-1963)
27. Amiri Baraka (1934-2014)
28. Billy Collins (1941-present)
29. Nikki Giovanni (1943-present)
30. Rita Dove (1952-present)



Outline

I. Introduction

- A. Introduce the selected American poet
- B. Briefly explain the poet's significance in American literature

II. Biographical Information

- A. Early Life
 - 1. Birth and childhood
 - 2. Family background
- B. Education and Influences
 - 1. Educational background
 - 2. Influential mentors or experiences
- C. Career and Achievements
 - 1. Professional trajectory
 - 2. Notable works and awards

III. Historical Context

- A. Overview of the Time Period
 - 1. Social conditions
 - 2. Cultural movements
- B. Political Landscape
 - 1. Major events or movements
 - 2. Political ideologies prevalent during the poet's lifetime

IV. Poetry Analysis

- A. Selected Poem
 - 1. Title and publication information
- B. Themes and Motifs
 - 1. Identify overarching themes
 - 2. Discuss recurring motifs or symbols
- C. Literary Devices
 - 1. Analyze the poet's use of figurative language (e.g., metaphors, similes, personification)
 - 2. Examine poetic techniques (e.g., rhyme scheme, meter)
- D. Artistic Expression
 - 1. Explore the poem's style and tone
 - 2. Discuss how the poem reflects the poet's worldview or personal experiences

V. Conclusion

- A. Summarize the poet's impact and relevance in American literary history
- B. Reflect on the significance of studying the poet's life and work



The Works Cited page is an essential part of your research paper or assignment, providing readers with information about the sources you used in your research. Follow these steps to create a Works Cited page in MLA 9.

1. Start a New Page:

- a. Begin your Works Cited page on a new page at the end of your research outline

2. Title:

- a. Center the title "Works Cited" at the top of the page.
- b. Make sure it is formatted in the same font and size as the rest of your paper.

3. List Entries:

- a. List your sources alphabetically by the author's last name (or by title if no author is given).

4. Format Entries:

- a. For e-books/print books: Include the author's name (last name, first name), book title (italicized), publisher, publication year, and medium of publication.
- b. For database articles: Include the author's name, article title (in quotation marks), journal or magazine name (italicized), volume and issue numbers, publication date, page numbers, and medium of publication.
- c. For websites: Include the author's name (if available), webpage title (in quotation marks), website name (italicized), publication date (if available), URL, and date of access.

5. Use Hanging Indentation:

- a. Indent the second and subsequent lines of each entry using a hanging indent (half-inch or five spaces). This means that the first line of each entry is flush with the left margin, while the subsequent lines are indented.

6. Formatting:

- a. Entries should be double-spaced with no additional spacing between entries.



[Your Full Name]

[Your Teacher's Name]

[Course Title]

[Date]

Sample Works Cited

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Random House, 1969. Print.

Dickinson, Emily. "Because I Could Not Stop for Death." *The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*, edited by Thomas H. Johnson, Little, Brown, 1960, pp. 151-152. eBook.

"Gwendolyn Brooks." Poetry Foundation, www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/gwendolyn-brooks. Accessed 10 Feb. 2024. Website.

Hughes, Langston. *The Weary Blues*. Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group, 1992. eBook.

Smith, Tracy K. *Wade in the Water: Poems*. Graywolf Press, 2018. Database.





American Poets

Poem Analysis notes

Title, author, publication details

structure (rhyme scheme, stanzas)

symbols/ images

figurative language (simile, metaphor,
personification)

tone/ word choice

theme/ purpose



American Poets

Types of Sources

Databases:

- Online collections of reliable articles and resources.
- Good for finding scholarly information about poets.

Bloom's Literary Database

Username: PTHSLibrary

Password: indians

E-books:

- Digital versions of books that you can read on devices like computers or tablets.
- Useful for accessing poetry collections and other materials online.

Gale Virtual Reference Library

Password: indians

Salem Press eBooks

Password: ptindians

Print Books:

- Traditional physical books found in libraries or bookstores.
- Provide tangible resources like poetry anthologies and biographies.

Destiny Card catalog

<https://pthslibrary.weebly.com/>

Websites:

- Online platforms with articles, essays, and multimedia content.
- Can offer information on poets and their works, but check credibility.

Academy of American Poets (www.poets.org)

Poets.org (www.poets.org)

Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/poetry)

American Poets

Grading Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Proficient	Needs Improvement
Biographical Research	Student conducts thorough research into the poet's life, providing detailed and accurate biographical information, including significant events, influences, and historical context.	Student conducts adequate research into the poet's life, providing relevant biographical information, but may lack depth or detail in some areas.	Student conducts limited research into the poet's life, providing basic biographical information, but lacks depth or detail and may include inaccuracies.
Analysis of Selected Poem	Student demonstrates a deep understanding of the chosen poem, analyzing its themes, literary devices, and overall impact with insightful observations supported by strong textual evidence from both primary and secondary sources.	Student demonstrates a solid understanding of the chosen poem, analyzing its themes, literary devices, and overall impact with clear observations supported by textual evidence from both primary and secondary sources.	Student demonstrates a basic understanding of the chosen poem, providing some analysis of themes, literary devices, and overall impact, but may lack depth or clarity and relies on limited textual evidence.
Utilization of Academic Resources	Student effectively utilizes a variety of academic databases, eBooks, and websites to gather reliable information about the poet.	Student utilizes academic databases, eBooks, and websites to gather information about the poet, but may rely more heavily on one type of source or include some less reliable sources.	Student attempts to utilize academic resources to gather information about the poet, but sources may be limited or unreliable, and integration into the research is inconsistent.
Sentence Outline of Research Information	Student creates a well-organized sentence outline of the research information, effectively organizing key points about the poet's life and historical context with clear and logical structure.	Student creates a sentence outline of the research information, organizing key points about the poet's life and historical context with adequate structure and coherence.	Student creates a basic sentence outline of the research information, but organization of key points about the poet's life and historical context may lack clarity or coherence.
Documentation (In-text citations & Works Cited)	Student consistently and accurately creates in-text citations and a works cited page to document all sources used in the research, following the appropriate citation style.	Student creates in-text citations and a works cited page to document most sources used in the research, with some minor errors or inconsistencies in citation style.	Student attempts to create in-text citations and a works cited page to document sources used in the research, but there are significant errors or inconsistencies in citation style.