American Author Project

This project consists of the following three parts:

1. **Written essay** exploring an American author’s life and his or her literary significance as evidenced by an analysis of a piece of literature written by the author (200 points) Nov. 19th

2. **One-page written classroom handout** (50 points) due Nov. 12th

3. **Five to ten-minute oral presentation** (50 points) Nov. 14th, 15th Wed/Fri.

The following is a description of each part:

1. - The paper should be a minimum of 1000 words and should explore the importance of an American born author of any genre and evidence to support such acclaim by analyzing one piece of his or her literature.
   
   - Your analysis should describe the subject of your study, including important events in the life of the person you have chosen. Explain why this person is considered a significant author and the influence this author has had on the literary world or society.

   - The evidence for this author’s greatness will result from an exploration of a selected piece of literature by that author. If a novel is chosen, it must be at least 100 pages in length. If your author is a poet, playwright, essayist, or another type of writer, have your selections pre-approved.

   - You should examine how the author’s life may be reflected in the literature and influenced its content. Moreover, your analysis should examine literary techniques and plot content which support this prestigious author’s literary status.
2. Your handout may include any or all of the following information:

- dates of birth and death
- childhood, adolescent, and adult experiences
- education
- professional accomplishments
- personal accomplishments (marriage, children, etc.)
- literary publications and/or awards

NOTE: Assume you are teaching this author’s life and the handout you create is for the class to use as a reference. Do not allow your handout to comprise more than two pages. This class will receive a copy of each handout and one-page front and back is as lengthy as I will accept. Furthermore, do not plagiarize; the handout should be written in your own words.

3. Refer to elements of your handout as reference for your oral presentation. If available, present examples of the author’s work and a photograph or illustrated portrait of the author. Present any information that you feel is pertinent to your author but that you were unable to include on your handout.