

Paper must be 6 pages **minimum** in MLA format. In addition to the primary work, your research must include **four secondary sources**, one of which must be a **scholarly journal**.

NO INTERNET SOURCES ALLOWED.

ONLY CREDIBLE SOURCES MAY BE USED: ACADEMIC SCHOLARLY JOURNALS **AND** LITERARY CRITICISM / ESSAYS FROM LIBRARY BOOKS OR LIBRARY DATA BASES.

Students must master MLA style (Modern Language Association) research methods. See MLA instructions in textbook and mla.org

PAPERS WILL BE SCREENED FOR PLAGIARISM

TOPIC ONE

Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily."

Refer to the **Literary Terms Glossary** and discuss the Gothic elements in relation to Emily's character and to a theme.

Your discussion must integrate textual support and research, all documented in MLA format.

TOPIC TWO

I am no disbeliever in spiritual purpose and no vague believer. I see from the standpoint of Christian orthodoxy. This means that for me the meaning of life is centered in our Redemption by Christ and what I see in the world I see in its relation to that. I don't think that this is a position that can be taken halfway or one that is particularly easy in these times to make transparent in fiction.

Here O'Connor summarizes her religious convictions and, in fact, the authorial intent in her fiction. Although O'Connor's work contains no dogmatic prescriptions for living, her characters struggle with spirituality and redemption in bizarre, shocking situations,

Refer to the **Literary Terms Glossary** and discuss how O'Connor uses the **protagonist** and **antagonist** in "Good Country People" or "A Good Man is Hard to Find" to depict O'Connor's dramatization of a **theme of unawareness of one's sinful nature and the soulful need for grace**. Your discussion must integrate textual support and research, all documented in MLA format.

TOPIC THREE

There was once an animal born into this world, and opening his eyes upon Life, he saw above and about him confining walls, and before him were bars of iron through which came air and light from without; this animal was born in a cage.

Here he grew, and thrived in strength and beauty under care of an invisible protecting hand. Hungering, food was ever at hand. When he thirsted water was brought, and when he felt the need of rest, there was provided a bed of straw upon which to lie: and here he

found it good, licking his handsome flanks, to bask in the sun beam that he thought existed but to lighten his home.

Awaking one day from his slothful rest, lo! The door of his cage stood open: accident had opened it. In the corner he crouched, wondering and fearfully. Then slowly did he approach the door, dreading the unaccustomed, and would have closed it, but for such a task his limbs were purposeless. So out the opening he thrust his head, to see the canopy of the sky grow broader, and the world waxing wider.

Back to his corner but not to rest, for the spell of the Unknown was over him, and again and again he goes to the open door, seeing each time more Light.

Then one time standing in the flood of it; a deep in-drawn breath—a bracing of strong limbs, and with a bound he was gone.

On he rushes, in his mad flight, heedless that he is wounding and tearing his sleek sides—seeing, smelling, touching all things; even stopping to put his lips to the noxious pool, thinking it may be sweet.

Hungering there is no food but such as he must seek and oftentimes fight for; and his limbs are weighted before he reaches the water that is good to his thirsting throat.

So does he live, seeking, finding, joying, and suffering. The door which accident had opened is open still, but the cage remains forever empty.

(Chopin, 1969, pp. 37–38)

Kate Chopin's "Story of an Hour" is about a woman who has a heart condition. We might be a bit surprising upon reading of her response to her husband's death, as her marriage seems to be a very peaceful one. We are told that her mate "never looked save with love upon her" (37), a statement that cannot be said of many marriages. Perhaps many men and even some women would say that Mrs. Mallard should have just counted her blessings. And her thoughts do disclose the feeling of love for her spouse, at least "sometimes" (37).

"Emancipation" is Chopin's earliest surviving story. Here we read of the sleek animal that awakens to the adventures of freedom, while at the same time encountering the difficulties of finding food and water and safety.

Using these two stories, **write an essay discussing what Chopin might be suggesting about freedom as a THEME.** Refer to the **Literary Terms Glossary**.

Your discussion must integrate textual support and research, all documented in MLA format.

TOPIC FOUR

Othello is considered to be a prime example of Aristotelian drama; it focuses upon a very small cast of characters, one of the smallest used in Shakespeare. The play has few distractions from the main plot and concentrates on several major themes. As such, it is one of the most intense and focused plays Shakespeare wrote. The play has enjoyed a great amount of popularity from the Jacobean period to the present day.

Refer to the **Literary Terms Glossary** and discuss one of the following literary terms in Shakespeare's *Othello*:

irony / antagonist / protagonist / dramatic monologue / figurative language

Your discussion must integrate textual support and research, all documented in MLA format.

TOPIC SIX

Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, Emily Elizabeth Dickinson was the middle child of a prominent lawyer and one-term United States congressional representative, Edward Dickinson, and his wife, Emily Norcross Dickinson. From 1840 to 1847 she attended the Amherst Academy, and from 1847 to 1848 she studied at the Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (now Mount Holyoke College) in South Hadley, a few miles from Amherst. With the exception of a trip to Washington, D.C., in the late 1850s and a few trips to Boston for eye treatments in the early 1860s, Dickinson remained in Amherst, living in the same house on Main Street from 1855 until her death. During her lifetime, she published only about 10 of her nearly 2,000 poems, in newspapers, Civil War journals, and a poetry anthology. The first volume of *Poems of Emily Dickinson* was published in 1890, after Dickinson's death.

Refer to the **Literary Terms Glossary** and discuss one of the following literary terms in Emily Dickinson's poetry:

slant rhyme / persona / symbol

Your discussion must integrate textual support and research, all documented in MLA format.