

Research Step 4: Working Thesis and Outline

American Literature

Name: _____

“INSTA-THESIS”

For your working thesis, you'll be using the “Insta-Thesis” template. This should make the wording easier and provide you with a firm foundation so long as you choose good information with which to plug into the provided template. You may later expand this idea while fine-tuning your formal thesis, but for now the “Insta-Thesis” will help guarantee a solid starting point. *Choose your literary techniques wisely.* Though your primary source may contain an abundance of a particular technique, not all techniques are helpful in demonstrating how your author fits into a specific literary genre or movement.

_____ was a product of the _____,
(author's name) (general literary period or historical period),
and his/her use of _____ and _____
(literary technique) (literary technique)
in _____ clearly demonstrates how he/she fits into
(primary work)
_____ of American literature.
(specific genre or movement)

Points ___/5

“INSTA-OUTLINE”

Much like the working thesis above, you will be using the “Insta-Outline” template to create the basic structure of your paper. You should use the main ideas (slugs) to organize your sources, notes, and research accordingly. This working outline will provide the foundation for a more expansive and detailed formal outline later. Be sure that *all* research material is relevant to your author's style or influence.

- I. _____
(crucial biographical information)
- II. _____
(general literary period or historical period)
- III. _____
(specific genre or movement)
- IV. _____
(literary technique)
- V. _____
(literary technique)

Points ___/5