**3rd Quarter Major Writing Project**

**Expository Writing & Research**

**1st Draft’s Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Final Draft’s Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions**: Students will compose an expository essay for the third quarter. The purpose of the essay is to further explore topics and themes from the Romantic and Realism Movement in American literature (1800-1914), and to analyze how important historical events have influenced American fiction. Students will select **one topic** and will compose a five-page essay that **defines, describes** and **analyzes** the topic. **This project is worth 200 points** (equivalent of two test grades).

**Specific Guidelines:**

1. Minimum length requirement: 5 pages of writing (this does not including the work-cited page). **Students should submit a minimum of 6 pages in total.**
2. Essay must follow MLA guidelines: double spaced, one inch margins, 12 point font, Times New Roman
3. A title page is **not** required for this essay. Instead, students must include a heading on the first page of the essay. All headings must follow MLA formatting guidelines.
4. Essay must be written in **third person point-of-view** (he, she, it, they, etc.)
5. Students must research their topic using Hampton City School’s **GALE Database**. Here is a link to the database if need be: <http://galesites.com/portal/hampton/va_s_112_0430>
6. Students must incorporate information from **two scholarly articles** from the database. **A work cited page** and **parenthetical citations** (also commonly referred to as in-text citations) are mandatory for this project.
7. The purpose of this essay is to define, describe and analyze a topic. Students will write the essay under the assumption that the reader does not have any prior knowledge about the topic. The following must be addressed within the essay:

a. **Define topic**. In other words, clearly describe what the topic is.

b. **Description of topic**. Provide a detailed explanation of the topic. Include important dates, facts, authors, important historical figures, etc.

c. **Analysis of topic:** Students must illustrate how the topic is relevant to the Romanticism and/or Realism Movement. In this section of the essay, students must prove where their topic appears within the literature that has been taught in class. Students must reference at least **2 pieces of literature** from the unit(s).

8. Students will complete **two drafts** for this project. In addition, students will complete a peer review following the submission of their first draft. The teacher will also read the first draft and will provide appropriate feedback before the project’s final submission. **Finally, instead of using Google Drive, student must submit their final draft using** [**www.turnitin.com**](http://www.turnitin.com)

**-Topics for Expository Writing Research Assignment-**

**Directions:** Students must select one topic from the list below. All topics are ones that have influenced American literature in a significant way. Throughout the essay, students must ultimately answer this question: ***How did the historical context influence the literature from this time period?***

**The Romantic Era (1800-1860):**

1. The Louisiana Purchase and westward expansion (1803)
2. The Gold Rush (1849)
3. The Industrial Revolution (1760-1840)

**The Realism Era: (1860-1914):**

1. The Civil War (1861-1865)
2. The end of slavery (1865)
3. The rise of technology: photography, the newspaper, etc. (1860-1914)
4. Westward expansion (1860-1914)
5. The growing concern for women’s rights (1860-1914)