

Instructions for Mississippi Writers Project (for Students)

1. Read a novel, several short stories, several poems or several essays by a Mississippi writer of your choice.

2. Write a review of the work following guidelines for a book review, not an essay, this time. Include quotations from the work to further your point; discuss the plot, setting, characters, theme, title, style, tone, or whatever else seems important to you about the work .

3. Write a biography of your Mississippi writer based on the research you do in the library from traditional resources and computer-based sources.

* **Use parenthetical notes when necessary, using the MLA style used for research papers earlier in the year.**

4. Include a bibliography of the traditional sources and web sources you actually used in your biography. For extra credit, you may include other traditional sources you found even if you did not actually need them for your biography. Put them in a separate category OTHER REFERENCES and use correct form for bibliographies (MLA).

5. Search the web for sites that provide information about your author and his/her work. Print out the page from the internet . Make a list of the web site addresses you find and briefly explain what kind of information is at that web site. Find as many as you can.

* **Remember to click on all the HIGHLIGHTED words for additional sites/addresses. We will hyperlink to these sites when we build our web site using your research.**

6. Be sure to save all of your work on a computer disk. The disk must be turned in with the project. Write your name, your author's name and the name of the word processor you used on the label on the disk (Microsoft Works, Word Perfect 6, etc.)

Suggestions for a web search:

1. Do your research for your biography FIRST.

2. Use this information for your searches.

a. Try the netscape searches (Lycos, Excite, Magellan, Yahoo, Alta Vista, Web Crawler, etc. using the **AUTHOR'S NAME OR WORK**

b. Search for the home page of the author's **HOMETOWN**. They often include famous people who were born or lived in the town.

c.. Check the **COLLEGE** web site from which your author graduated

- d. Check the **TOWN WHERE HE/SHE NOW LIVES**
 - e. Check the **COLLEGE** where he/she is teaching or has taught
 - f. Check the **PRIZES OR AWARDS HOME PAGE** that your author has won.
 - g. Check the **PUBLISHER OF THE BOOKS** your author has written. They often have web sites.
4. **PRINT OUT COPIES OF ALL RELATED WEB SITES** that you located that are about your author or that refer to your author, even if they were not useful for your writing.
5. Include with your project the floppy **DISK (preferably 3 1/2)** on which you saved all your materials. Please save in text (txt.) or ASCII if you don't use Word Perfect or Microsoft Works so we can change to **HTML** format later; or if you use Corel WordPerfect 7, go ahead and click on *internet publisher* and save as an HTML web document. Put a label on the disk that gives your name, the author's name, and the work or works you reviewed (Also include the name of the Word Processor, such as Microsoft Works, Word Perfect, etc.

Ex. Save as

a:Grisham.txt or a:Grisham.html (if possible).

NOTE: IF YOU NEED HELP USING THE WEB FOR FINDING INFORMATION, BE SURE TO LET ME

KNOW. WE HAVE SEVERAL STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERTS AT USING THE INTERNET, AND

THEY OR I WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER,

YOU MAY USE THE COMPUTER IN OUR ENGLISH CLASSROOM or the SHS library.(YOU CAN

ALSO USE THE COMPUTER LABS AT MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY or Starkville Public Library.)

Part of the purpose of this project is to help you become familiar with the computer and the internet, so do not hesitate to request aid.

Please respond to the following questions. Your grade will not be affected in ANY WAY by your answers, so please be honest.

1. To do this project I had access to computers (check all that apply)

- **a. in school library**
- **b. in English classroom**
- **c. at a friend or relative's house**
- **d. at Mississippi State University**
- **e. at home**
- **f. other (please explain)_____**

2. Before I did this project, I had used the internet for information

- **a. often**
- **b. occasionally**
- **c. seldom**
- **d. never**

3. I feel _____ about using the computer and the internet.

- **a. very confident**
- **b. confident, sometimes get help**
- **c. unsure, need help**
- **d. completely lost**

I am excited about CPB funding our project and anxious to begin the web site. Please let me know if there are other concerns I need to address.