

By this point you should have a pretty firm grasp on the process of writing a literary-critical paper in English, and many already have a fairly clearly defined topic/question already prepared. Good. Over the next few weeks, of course, you should be continuing to develop the paper—collecting and organizing "evidence" from the novel, jotting down your own ideas about the topic, performing database searches to locate the relevant critical materials at Sterne Library, reading as much of the secondary material as you can and you think relevant, and so on. Eventually you will need to write a thesis to your paper (a one-sentence answer to your research question), draft an introduction, and then actually write the paper. A suggested timetable for these various tasks is presented below.

The fundamental requirements: The final paper should develop some well-formed critical thesis about Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. The paper should be **8-10 pages long** (2500-3000 words, not counting lengthy quotations), and it should refer to no fewer than **five secondary sources** in the Works Cited page. The final, completed, proofread paper should be ready to **turn in via email attachment by midnight on 4 August**.

Timetable: The following dates provide suggestions for how the paper-writing process might go.

16 July: You will already have read and reread the novel, and you will already have been through any relevant background (tertiary) sources. By now you should have completed a thorough database/secondary source search, prepared a working bibliography, copied/printed several of the sources that seem most germane to your topic-question, and begun to read and synthesize the arguments found in these sources.

23 July: You've had a chance to skim all the relevant secondary sources and read a few with care. Now you also know how you plan to answer your topic-question and you have drafted a possible thesis for your essay as well as an introduction that establishes a critical context and then presents the thesis. The introduction refers specifically—either by direct quotation or summary—to several of the secondary sources.

28 July: Now you have a relatively complete draft of the whole essay. While some sections are still sketchy, you've got some of the body paragraphs fairly well composed and you know what the structure of the whole piece will look like. You have a title for the essay, and you know how you plan to conclude the piece. At this point, most of the research part of the writing process should be complete and your focus will shift to developing your argument and polishing your writing. Please bring a copy of the introductory paragraph(s) to class with you on 28 July.

4 August: You should complete the essay by this date. The argument should now be well crafted with an introduction that establishes a genuine critical issue and presents your thesis, with body paragraphs that develop and illustrate that thesis with "evidence" from the primary text, and with a brief but pointed conclusion. All the citations—both to the primary and secondary sources—should be checked for accuracy and (where relevant) for effective quotation technique. Documentation—both parenthetical citations within the paper and source references in the Works Cited page—should be flawless.