

Short Writing Assignment #2

Due: March, 27th

Format: 3-5 pages, MLA format, proper quotation format for quotations within a paragraph: "..." (12); block quote format for quotes five lines or longer.

Criteria for Evaluation: I will be grading your paper in terms of how well you make your case for your argument, how well you base your argument on textual analysis and interpretation, and how well-organized and well-written your paper is. Hence I will be evaluating the coherence, validity, and persuasiveness of your paper's argument, the effectiveness of your paper's structure, and the quality of your paper's prose (grammar, syntax, and punctuation). Try, in this second paper, to take some risks and make interesting connections between the texts/mediums.

Prompts:

1. Much of Romanticism and the Gothic deals with the unknown recesses of the human mind and the vast complexity of the human consciousness. Discuss the relationship between these ideas and early Enlightenment notions of the "knowability" of the natural world. How do writers like Hawthorne, Poe, and Irving reflect this changing perspective? Why is this important?
2. Use the section "Slavery, Race, and the Making of American Literature" to interrogate what the introduction of this section identifies as "tensions between the realities of slavery and the ideals of freedom inform[ing] much writing of the period." How does Frederick Douglass or Harriet Jacobs speak to the "unfinished work of the American Revolution?" How does the representation of slavery and freedom differ between Jacobs's *Incidents* and Douglass' *My Bondage and My Freedom*?
3. Watch Tim Burton's filmic representation of Washington Irving's *Sleepy Hollow*. What techniques does the director use to illustrate some of the key themes found in Irving's story? In what ways, perhaps, does the film fall short? Your comparison should yield an in-depth analysis of the text and one or more of its central issues.