American Romantic Movement 1820-1860)

Assignment Guide – ENGL1302
LSC University Park Library

Often I think of the beautiful town
That is seated by the sea;
Often in thought go up and down
The pleasant streets of that dear old town,
And my youth comes back to me.

My Lost Youth by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

The Romantic Movement, also called Romanticism, started in Germany then France and England, arriving in the United States about 1820. The Romantics underscored the importance of expressive art for the individual and society. Romanticism fosters a return to nature, and also values the imagination over reason and emotion over intellect. Despite the arrival of other movements or genres of literature; romanticism has remained throughout the 20th century and the music, art, novels and poetry of today.

To Name a Few
Poets include:
James Fenimore Cooper
Emily Dickinson
Frederick Douglass
Ralph Waldo Emerson
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Washington Irving
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
Herman Melville
Edgar Allen Poe
Henry David Thoreau
Walt Whitman

Novelists include:
James Finemore Cooper
Nathaniel Hawthorne
Herman Melville
Harriet Beecher Stowe

Using this Guide
This guide offers background to the Romantic Movement in America that can be used in any paper you write. Using the selections in the assignment guide will assure you are using scholarly resources. Choose from a variety of resources. Find ebooks, or use the catalog to order books from another library. Then use the research databases to search articles that offer critical analysis of your poet(s) or novel and novelist. Be careful with Internet sites. Not all are scholarly or appropriate for your English paper.

Contact your Instructor
Professor David Miller | 281/290-5058
Website: http://www.lonestar.edu/blogs/davidmiller/

Meet Your Librarian
QR the library.   Peggy Whitley
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WHO WROTE?
“The word is dead when it is said, some say.
I say it just begins to live that day.”
### Themes to Consider

- Nature as refuge and a source of knowledge
- Strong senses and emotions
- Celebration of the individual goodness of man
- Common man as a hero
- Interest in the supernatural and mystic
- Spirituality religion

### Finding Books and eBooks

University Park Library is digital. Use the library catalog if you want to order books or resources from other libraries. [http://www.lonestar.edu/library/](http://www.lonestar.edu/library/) Or download or read online eBooks, found on the database subject page.

From home, login using your ID barcode.

**SAMPLE:**


*The Symbolist Movement in Literature* is an especially good book, full text from Google Scholar. Browse the Contents and search using your keywords.

### About Databases

Databases contain articles, news, and multimedia on various topics. Literary databases will have journal articles reviewed by peers that are appropriate for college paper.

### Finding Critical Articles in Databases

- **Literature Resource Center**
  - Literary criticism from journals and literary reference books.

- **JSTOR**
  - Includes the full-text of older issues of scholarly journals in literature and other academic subjects. Don’t avoid articles written in the past. Your topic is almost 200 years old. Look at criticism from any period.

- **Bloom’s Literary Reference Online**
  - Essays and criticism examining the lives of great authors and their works throughout history. Use the advanced search and use the tabs your search provides. The 2-5 minute videos by Harold Bloom are worth watching.

- **Project Muse**
  - Search or browse recent issues of scholarly journals in literature and more. The full-text of all articles is available online.

- **Academic Search Complete**
  - This index to journal articles includes full text and older articles you may not find elsewhere. Includes all subjects of journals; limit to Scholarly.

### Using Video

**Films on Demand** is a database of over 6000 full length films from reputable sources (like PBS),

Search terms:

- *American Romanticism* or (your author or novel)

### Citing Sources

You must find reputable sites. Consider:

- **ACCURACY:** Proof of solid research.
- **SOURCE:** .gov, .edu, .org, .net
- **AUTHORITY:** Check Author’s credentials
- **COVERAGE:** Does it answer your questions?
- **OBJECTIVITY:** Bias? Point of view? Present both sides.
- **TIMELINESS:** When was it written? Is it meaningful today?

### Internet Sites for this Research

- **Romanticism and History of the Period** This Online-Literature site can come in handy for literature and history. How and why did romanticism develop? Follow the links. Worth a bookmark. Links to poets and novelists of the period.

- **Introduction to Romanticism** is a short essay from a Professor at Brooklyn-Cuny. Good article for background information.

- **Romanticism**. Use the eNotes article on Romanticism. Use the bibliographical works cited pages for more articles on your topic.

- **Overview of American Romantic Movement** The introduction by a professor at University of West Georgia. Contains excellent information gathered from scholarly sources. Good background information for any paper.

- **Poets.org** A brief guide to Romantic Movement in poetry. This site also contains links to American poets, their works and biographical information.
## Getting Help with Your Paper

1. Use the MLA paper guide or online [MLA Guide](#).
2. Watch for the tutor in the library during research.
3. Use the Writing Lab.
4. [About Student Success](#) is a short course on study skills, research, using technology and more.

Chat line is open when the library is open. Contact us.
Reference Librarian: 281-401-5390.
Email at [UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu](mailto:UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu)

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Peggy Whitley 8/12