

## Guidelines for Research Groups:

When you come to class on the day your research is due, you should be able to give everybody the following:

- A brief biography (say a page or two) for the writer in question. Feel free to lay it out as a bullet-pointed timeline. Make sure to include the titles and dates of publication of all the writer's books. Colors are cool, as are images and arrows and stuff. Make sure also to highlight anything potentially juicy or scandalous. Don't make any of it up unless you have to. Or, you know, want to.
- A picture of the writer would be nice. I will pay five dollars for an undoctored picture of Owen Wister in a bathing suit. Other prices are negotiable.
- A bibliography – formatted according to the guidelines in *Handling Sources* – that lists everything *written by* the writer, and everything *written about* the writer. The latter category should include biographies, book-length critical studies, essays or chapters in books, academic articles and articles in the popular press within reason. (Short book reviews and reviews of books *about* the writer can be ignored. You'll dig up a lot of those.)
- The bibliography should be arranged so that it's clear which materials are available where. One section should be devoted to materials *in* Marlboro's library. Another should be devoted to materials available through UMass/Amherst or the five colleges. Another should list articles or books that are available online in some form – books as e-texts, or articles accessible on the web. The final section should list articles that are only available through print sources at other libraries.
- Note: we are *not* looking for websites here. What you need are published articles and books. So a google search won't be very useful in this respect, or at least not all by itself.

All groups should plan on setting up a time with the librarians to go over our resources and search tools. At the very least, each group should do a complete search of these databases:

- The Marlboro library catalog
- The Five Colleges library catalog
- Infotrac
- J-Stor
- The MLA database

I'd be happy to talk to each group about their research as it comes up, and to add to it wherever I can. Please remember that what you are doing here will help you to learn how

to do research – more importantly, the research you do will almost certainly help somebody else in the class, as theirs will help you. Dig up everything you can, and ask questions if you run into trouble.