

Independent Study is a form of education offered by many colleges and other educational institutions. It is an educational activity undertaken by an individual with no direct instruction from the instructor, but rather with guidance and supervision. Independent studies provide a way for well-motivated students to pursue a topic of interest that does not necessarily fit into a traditional academic curriculum. They are a way for students to learn specialized material or gain research experience. Also, independent studies provide students opportunities to explore their interests and make important decisions about how and where they will direct their talents in the future.

(Adapted from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Independent_study)

AP Literature Independent Study Project

1. Choose a title from the brochure “AP Exam Novel List Prioritized by the Number of Times Used on the AP Exam” *PLEASE NOTE: It may **not** be a title you’ve already read for this class or any other class. No exceptions!
2. Begin reading your chosen novel over the break. Be sure to take notes as you go. What are some of the concepts in the novel that demand your attention and require further research and analysis? Think “outside the box”... begin wondering... consider how see the world after reading this text... just because you began with literature doesn’t mean you have to end there...
3. Make an appointment to meet with me after school sometime between January 12th-19th. (There will be a sign-up sheet in my classroom.) During this appointment you will pitch your idea to me regarding a topic for a research paper grounded in your chosen text. Please bring with you a simple “statement of intent” outlining your concept and organization for the project.

For example, here is a statement of intent
for an independent study on *Jane Eyre*



4. Once we’ve met and I’ve given you the “go ahead,” get started gathering your research and putting together your paper. First draft is due in class on January 30th and must be submitted to Turnitin.com before class time that day. Expect to provide and receive lots of feedback!

5. If need be, we can meet again during after school hours to discuss revisions. Again, sign up sheet will be in my room.
6. The final copy of the paper is due in class and to Turnitin.com on February 6th by class time!

A Few Pesky Requirements:

Must include 3 a minimum of sources beyond your chosen novel

Must include both in-text citations and a Works Cited page (MLA format)

Length and formatting: 4-5 pages, double spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font

“If we knew what it was we were doing, it would not be called research, would it?”

- Albert Einstein