

Researching Nineteenth Century Thinkers

AP English Language and Composition

Mr. Macdonald

*In order to thoroughly research and educate yourself about your **Nineteenth Century Thinker**, you must read about the topic in a variety of different academic and scholarly sources. Do not “just Google it” and select whatever sites pop up on the top of the list. If you want to perform a web search, I recommend the search engine RefSeek (www.refseek.com), which is designed for students and produces more academic search results.*

You are fortunate to have a world of information available literally at your fingertips. Here are some recommended resources to help you learn more about Nineteenth Century Thinkers!

Mrs. Walkins

Print Resources

We have biographies of many nineteenth century thinkers, which are shelved in the Biography Collection (e.g., *A Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* 920 D731 L).

You can also use additional print resources from other parts of the collection:

1. *American Bloomsbury* by Susan Cheever 810.9 CHE
2. *Presidents: All You Need to Know* by Carter Smith 973.92 S644 P
3. *Walden* (with Ralph Waldo Emerson’s essay on Thoreau) 818 THO
4. *Women’s Suffrage: A Primary Source History* 305.42 Ada
5. *American Writers* by Jay Parini (ed.) R 810.9 PAR

Check your public library for these additional resources recommended by Mr. Macdonald.

Eden’s Outcasts by John Matteson (for Alcott and Hecker)

The American Adam by R. W. B. Lewis (for Parker, Brownson, Hawthorne, and Holmes)

The Metaphysical Club by Louis Menand (for Holmes, James, Peirce, Wright, and Dewey)

“Introduction to A Memoir of Mary Ann” from *Mystery and Manners* by Flannery O’Connor (for Nathaniel and Rose Hawthorne)

Not for Ourselves Alone documentary directed by Ken Burns (for Anthony and Stanton)

Databases

You can access the Gale Databases through the [Learning Commons](#) website. Each database provides numerous articles from reputable scholarly journals and magazines which will provide valuable information. For this project, I recommend the following databases:

1. *Religion and Philosophy Collection*
2. *Biography in Context*
3. *U.S. History in Context*
4. *Gale Literary Sources*

E-Books



You can access the Follett Shelf E-book Collection through the [Learning Commons](#) website or directly through our [online catalog](#).

1. *Encyclopedia of World Writers*
2. *Presidents: a biographical dictionary*
3. *Speeches in World History*

On the Web

1. *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (plato.stanford.edu)
2. *U.S. History* published by Independence Hall Association (ushistory.org)
3. *National Women's History Project* (nwhp.org)
4. *National Museum of African American History and Culture* (nmaahc.si.edu)

Search Strategies

When doing online research it is important to consult a variety of resources, including the Gale Databases, the SJP print collection, ebooks, online encyclopedias, and other pertinent websites.

As you read and learn more about your topic, expand your research by creating a list of **keywords** and using a **variety of search terms**, **limiters** and **search operators**. It is also important to evaluate your resources for **Authority**, **Intent**, **Reliability**, **Timeliness** and **Usefulness**.



[Refining your Search Results](#) (Prezi)



[Evaluating Resources](#) (video tutorial)

Refine your search results by using these search limiters and search operators:

Boolean operators

And (+)
Not (-)
Near
Or (combine searches)

Wild Cards

Bibl*
Teen*

Search Limiters

“Search term” find exact match
~Search term find synonyms
Site:.gov limit to particular sites
Related: find related sites
Info: find details about site
News: find news articles
Intext: finds term in text of article
Intitle: finds term in title of article
Link:URL finds sites that point to URL

Follow the Clues

Click on links that may lead to further information. Check the references included at the end of articles to find additional resources.

MLA Format



Please note that the MLA Format has been revised. Please consult the [Purdue OWL](#) (Online Writing Lab) website before composing your citations. You can also use the Practice Template (below) from the *MLA Handbook* (8th edition) to guide you.

[MLA Formatting and Style Guide](#)

[In-text Citations](#)

Practice Template

1	Author.
2	Title of source.
CONTAINER 1	
3	Title of container.
4	Other contributors.
5	Version.
6	Number.
7	Publisher.
8	Publication date.
9	Location.
CONTAINER 2	
3	Title of container.
4	Other contributors.
5	Version.
6	Number.
7	Publisher.
8	Publication date.
9	Location.

From *MLA Handbook* (8th ed.), published by the Modern Language Association (style.mla.org).

Author.	
“Title of Source.”	
<i>Title of Container 1,</i>	
Other Contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	
Publisher,	
Publication Date,	
Location.	
<i>Title of Container 2,</i>	
Other Contributors,	
Version,	
Number,	
Publisher,	
Publication Date,	
Location.	