

**Paper on either “I Hear America Singing” by Walt Whitman or “The Tell-Tale Heart” by Edgar Allan Poe**

**Task**

You are to choose a topic, based on the reading of either piece, to write a 2-3 page, thesis driven essay. You want to select a thesis that there can be several answers for. For instance, if I were to write on the “Tell-Tale Heart”, I might write about the following thesis: that the narrator of “The Tell-Tale Heart” is, despite his statements to the contrary, a madman.

**Role and Audience**

You can imagine that you are writing this piece to convince other scholars of Poe or Whitman that they should agree with your interpretation of the piece. This **does not mean** that you need to use fancy, elevated language. Keep your language simple and to the point. **It does mean** that you can assume that folks you are writing to have read either “The Tell-Tale Heart” or “I Hear America Singing.” **It also does mean** that you must back up your thesis and subtopics, which are related to that thesis, with quotes from either “I Hear America Singing” or “The Tell-Tale Heart.” **Also, remember to introduce your quotations and explain them;** there is nothing that experts in Poe and Whitman like less than quotes just dropped into the middle of a paper they are reading to try and learn more about a particular piece.

**Format**

You must double-space your final paper, it must be typed or word-processed, and you must use 12 pt. font—using Arial or Times New Roman font. **Don’t use weird fonts.** Your paper must have the proper heading **on the first page**—your name, the date, the teacher’s name, and the period of the class—and you need to have *all of your pages numbered*. Since you will be using one text you do not need a works cited page.

**The Process**

We will start in class with creating possible theses, looking up quotes, and even writing your first paragraph of your 2-3 page paper. You will have one draft due on \_\_\_\_\_, and a final draft due on \_\_\_\_\_. As with all your work, **if you are not here on the day the paper is to be turned in, then you have ONE DAY to turn it in to me AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY.** Late papers will lose one letter grade per day that they are late.

**Evaluation**

This paper will be worth two quiz grades, and it will be evaluated using the attached rubric.

**Due Dates:**

- Draft One: \_\_\_\_\_
- Draft Two: \_\_\_\_\_