English 122 K. Parker Final Poetry Assignment

Each student will write a research essay about a poet (from the list provided). It will be 3 -5 pages (plus a works cited page) in length and it will connect the author to either an era (for example Renaissance, Restoration, Victorian) Please see this link for some background knowledge:

<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/timeline.php>

The focus of your essay will be on ways that the poet reflects what was going on in that time period (what was going on in the world at that time, how is that ‘movement’ defined). It will require you to research the poet, the movement, the time period, and several of the poet’s work. You must include several of the author’s pieces in your essay to show the relationship between the poet and the movement.

The essay will, of course, be MLA format. It will need a thesis statement (which I want you to show me before you start your work)

Works Cited page must be correctly formatted (I will not accept it otherwise). You will need to have several citations. Any poem you use in your essay must be cited. As well, any websites you use to research the poet and the literary era.

This is a link I found that a professor posted that has **several examples of literary essays with comments from the professor**. While the papers are not the same focus as your essay, they do give a good indication of literary essays.

<http://www.unm.edu/~aobermei/Eng200/samplepapers/>

**This teacher has great resources all on one page**:

<http://www.mseffie.com/assignments/research_paper/poetpaper.html>

**List of famous poets (but you do not have to pick one from this list):**

<http://www.poetrysoup.com/famous/poets/english_poets.aspx>

**What is an expository essay and how to write one**:

<http://www.time4writing.com/writing-resources/expository-essay/>

1. Choose a poet
2. Figure out what era that poet wrote in
3. Research poet and research a literary era
4. Read several of the poet’s work (you should read a lot of their poems, otherwise you will not be able to get a feel for their writing style and themes).
5. Make notes as you read the poems. What connections can you make between the literary era and the poet’s writing style and themes.

In your essay:

* Background information about the poet (biography)
* Background information about the literary era
* Connections between the poet and the literary era
* Make sure you make a work cited for each website you use
* Make sure you have a very clear thesis statement which will probably show the connection between the literary era and your poet
* MLA format; formal writing (no contractions, no slang, no “in my opinion” or “I think”