For your next major project, you will create a multimedia presentation on Edgar Allan Poe. This is a research-based project; you will research Edgar Allan Poe and use the information you find to create an interesting, engaging presentation. You will cite all your sources and include a complete MLA style bibliography (you may use NoodleBib to create your bibliography).

You may work alone on this project or with one partner. If you chose to have a partner, you need to work together. “Divide and conquer” is not an option; instead, you and your partner must work together on all aspects of the project. Both partners need to contribute equally and fully to the project. Your grades will reflect your teamwork and collaboration.

You may choose exactly how you want to shape your project, and you may try any combination of apps, online tools, and Mac programs. Include photos, videos, links to websites and other web content, and anything else that you would like to add. Make the project both informative and appealing. Please be innovative and creative! Your grades will reflect your research, information, creativity, and innovation. Consider making use of the iLearn Lab!

For each of the topics listed below (in the “Topics for Entries” section), please compose an entry (at least one full paragraph long – meaning about eight to twelve sentences with a strong topic sentence, at least three details, and a closing sentence) for your presentation. Again, what form the entries take will be determined by how you shape your project; however, no matter what you’re doing, each entry should be well-researched, thorough, and well-developed with specific details. Entries should be written in complete sentences and should demonstrate the six traits of good writing. Remember the three characteristics of good paragraphs: unity, coherence, and development.

Use at least five different sources in your project. At least two of your sources should be a book or article from the Middle School library or your local public library. To ensure that you use only credible, academic online sources, please use only approved online sources. Do not use wikipedia or “fan sites” created by individuals. Begin with the links on the blog (www.usmenglish.wordpress.com); if you find another useful source that you think should be included, please share it!

Within your entries, if you use a source’s exact words or phrases or if you use a source’s original ideas that you would not find anywhere else, you must use quotation marks if appropriate and cite the source in the paragraph. If you are citing general information, like his birthday or the day of his death or general, well-known information that can be found in multiple sources, you do not have to cite the source in the paragraph, but rather you can just include the source on the bibliography.
Topics for Entries:

These suggestions are ideas for the types of information you may want to include in the project. You may include additional information, and you do not necessarily need to include all of the ideas listed here.

Remember, paragraphs have unity, coherence, and development. Paragraphs have a topic sentence, adequate detail, and a closing sentence.

Basic Information:
1st paragraph: Birth and childhood.
Ideas: date of birth, where he was born, parents and siblings, adoptive parents, influence parents/adoptive parents may have had on him, his life choices, his career.

2nd paragraph: Education and military experience.
Ideas: university attended, dropping out of university, entering military under different name, time spent in military, discharge from military, what Poe really wanted to be doing in his young adult life.

3rd paragraph: Adult life.
Ideas: who he married, what kinds of jobs he held, his socioeconomic situation, what happened to his wife, what influence his wife had on him and his work.

4th paragraph: Historical context.
Ideas: contemporaries (meaning other authors or important figures working at the same time he was – hint, you should know one of them well from last year!), important historical events during his life time, Poe's views on politics and events of his time.

Career and important works:
5th paragraph: Publication and reviews of stories/poems we read.

6th paragraph: Fame and fortune.
Ideas: did he find fame or fortune, what people thought of him, how he is the considered the "Father of Detective Fiction," what he is most known for.

Mysterious death:
7th paragraph: Illnesses and death.
Ideas: how those close to him died and he was surrounded by death frequently in his life, events leading up to his death mystery surrounding his death, theories about what he died from, last words, his real first funeral, his recent second funeral during the bicentennial of his birth in 2009, the Poe Toaster, his legacy and how he is remembered and celebrated.