Shakespeare: The Authorship Issue

***Description of the Project:***

Throughout the next few weeks you will be reading, hearing, evaluating, and analyzing speeches, advertisements, and other forms of persuasive and technical writings. For this project, you will research the controversy surrounding the authorship of Shakespeare’s works and write a persuasive documented essay, as well as, a presentation.

The goal of a persuasive documented essay is to construct a logical argument and win acceptance of your views or ideas over opposing views or ideas. A persuasive paper works best if there is a disagreement or controversy, a wrong that needs “righting.” If there is no disagreement, there is no point to writing or presenting the argument. You will either be for or against a particular issue. In this paper, you will try to get your audience to accept your position on your topic. Please use facts, examples, statistics, or personal experiences to support your position. As you write your paper, be sure to include enough facts to support your opinions to make your case. Finally you will present a persuasive speech to the class.

**If you are absent on the day the assignment is due, you must make arrangements to get it turned in on or before December 18, 2013 with the presentation. Your paper will lose 20 points for every that it is late after December 18, 2013.** **No handwritten or hand-drawn items will be accepted**.

**Directions:**

1. Students will use the Internet links on my website or the Library’s website to engage in a Treasure Hunt to uncover "treasures" of William Shakespeare‘s life. You will use each resource link to answer the questions. You need to use at least three sources for this project. When you have finished your research, please synthesize the information and begin writing your essay.
2. You will keep track of your research by filling in the information on the graphic organizer. All boxes must be completed. Please enter your source information on the graphic organizer as well.
3. After reading the articles, you will then have to decide if you believe or do not believe that Shakespeare is the author. Choose a side: In your opinion is William Shakespeare the true author of these works or did one of the other people suggested write them? Please consider everything that you have read during your search and explain your answer. Be sure to discuss why there is a controversy over Shakespeare’s works. Discuss at least three possible writers of Shakespeare’s works.
4. Next, come up with a claim/thesis statement supporting your point of view with three reasons; then, find evidence to support your point of view.
5. Once, you complete the graphic organizer, you may begin writing your paper.
6. Please create some type of Media presentation to discuss your findings: power point, Prezi, Inspiration, etc.

Please follow the following date:

1. Signed Project handout (HWG) Gr 12/11/2013 Wh 12/12

2. Claim w/introductory paragraph (QG) Gr 12/11/2013 Wh 12/12

3. Completed Graphic Organizer (TG) Gr 12/13/2013 Wh 12/16

4. Works Cited Page (QG) Gr 12/13/2013 Wh 12/16

5. Documented essay with Visuals (TG) Gr 12/18/2013 Wh 12/18

6. Persuasive Speech/Oral Presentations (TG) Gr 12/18/2013 Wh 12/18

[Shakespeare's Life](http://www.folger.edu/Content/Teach-and-Learn/Shakespeare-for-Kids/Cool-Facts/)

[William Shakespeare](http://www.shakespeare-online.com/biography/)

[Facts about Shakespeare](http://www.nosweatshakespeare.com/resources/shakespeare-facts/)

[The Identity Problem](http://www.william-shakespeare.info/william-shakespeare-identity-problem.htm)

[The Authorship Debate](http://www.bardweb.net/debates.html)

[Shakespeare's Authorship Controversy](http://suite101.com/article/shakespeare-authorship-controversy-a139010)

[Shakespeare authorship](http://shakespeareauthorship.com/#how)

[Shakespearetheauthor](http://www.shakespeare-authorship.org.uk/candidates.htm)

[HowItallBegn](http://www.netplaces.com/shakespeare/did-shakespeare-write-shakespeare/how-did-the-controversy-begin.htm)

[TheRealShakespeare](http://shakespeare.about.com/od/authorshipdebate/a/authorship.htm)

[Did Shakespeare Write Shakespeare?](http://web.cn.edu/kwheeler/shake_did_write_plays.html)