

English 12/AP English Literature and Composition

Paper/Project: *Mrs. Dalloway*

- Proposal due, beginning work: Tuesday 20 March
- Conferences in class
- The expectation is that the project reflects 4 days of work in class as well as 5 30-minute homework sessions; this project should represent 310 minutes of work, or a little more than 5 hours.
- Work presented to class: Monday and Tuesday, March 26 and 27

You have written in class about *Dalloway* as a modernist piece exhibiting stream of consciousness style, and you have dabbled with imitative writing. Now you have some options for ways to proceed:

Creative options:

1. Write a longer, drafted, more serious imitative piece. You may use characters from the novel or extend/expand the idea from the imitative writing you produced previously. Include a three-quarter page explanation of your choices, so that the reader can tell what the project has attempted. The focus of this imitation must be style.
2. Create something in another medium (music, film, dance, visual art, piece of clothing) that reflects a specific aspect or aspects of modernist style, relevant to our study of *Dalloway*. Include a three-quarter page explanation of your piece, so that the reader can understand the nature of the attempt.

Academic options:

Topics are general and open so that you can develop your own ideas—your ideas should be specific, well developed, and strong. All papers should be primarily close-reading papers; if you use credible outside sources, cite them using MLA style in-text citations and a works-cited page. Do not use sources you'd be embarrassed to cite.

1. The Great War. What is the role of World War I in the novel? Consider stylistic choices as well as thematic ones.
2. Empire. What is the role of the British empire in the novel? Consider emblems of empire present in the novel as well as Peter Walsh's experiences in India and how he is regarded.
3. Time. Time is a characteristic preoccupation with modernist writers, from Fitzgerald to Eliot. What is the purpose of the reminders of time in *Mrs. Dalloway*?
4. Myth. Critics have argued that Clarissa is a Demeter figure. Play out what follows from this claim: Is Elizabeth Persephone? What is the role, then, of Miss Kilman? What do you make of the flower shop as an emblem of spring? Is Clarissa's a divided life? How does that work?
5. Structure. Examine the structure of the novel. How do we get from one idea to the next? How is the material of the novel arranged, parceled out? To what end?
6. London. Plot out the wanderings of Clarissa, Peter, Elizabeth, Septimus and Rezia, and anyone else you consider important, along with any important landmarks. Include page references and make a very clear visual rendering. Include a one-page commentary that lets the viewer know what is important about your findings, in reference to the novel's themes and style.
7. Propose your own topic.