



# Contrasting Visions Project



Here's an opportunity to synthesize your understanding of the various literary periods we've discovered in our "Contrasting Visions" unit. In fact, *vision* will be a key ingredient in your portrayal of these American periods. You must find a way to demonstrate the unique characteristics of each period using one consistent, concrete visual element and showing how it would appear from the perspective of writers in each literary period. For instance, you might choose to exhibit how *a pencil* would be perceived in each period as follows:

- Puritan:** A pencil with a worn out eraser (from trying to erase sins)
- Revolutionary/Reason:** A tiny pencil, sharpened down to a nub by the oppressive pencil sharpener, but possessing a very sharp point, ready to strike for liberty
- Romantic/Transcendental:** A mood pencil, changing emotions trapped in a forest lined with larger, darker pencils. Or...one new pencil filled with potential sitting outside the box pencils, inscribed with "I Thank the Trees."
- Realism/Naturalism:** A #2 pencil filling in a bubble on a scan sheet
- Modernism  
(w/Harlem Renaissance):** A lone pencil inside an electric pencil sharpener, it's spinning out of control & not getting any sharper.... Or maybe a box of colored pencils scribbling musical notes for a jazz composition, leaving plenty of messiness and room for improvisation.
- Post-Modernism:** Half of a broken pencil is the stick a woman uses to hold a political poster with a "\$" and a smashed computer mouse on it - there's a rubber grip wrapped around it, designed to make everything right and easy -- its eraser is gone, for it will never again attempt to erase its past -- it will face it... (the eraser half is stuck, earring-like through her ear lobe as both social commentary & artistic expression)

OVER -->

After you have developed your concept...

1. **Translate it into a visual display of some sort (e.g. poster, booklet, slides, 3-D model, video, etc.).** Be sure that your visual representation clearly depicts all six (6) literary periods using only one (1) concrete visual element.
2. **Explain your approach in writing.** Provide an in-depth paragraph for each of the six periods, explaining the characteristics of the period which are relevant to your representation and HOW your visual interpretation captures the central ideas of that period.

**NOTE: My descriptions on the previous page just scratch the surface. You need to expand and explain beyond my brief snippets.**

***You will be evaluated on:***

***Conceptualization:*** Your thinking exhibited in your writing (60 points)

***Creativity:*** Your translation of period characteristics into a concrete display (20 points)

***Presentation:*** Your attention to detail & neatness (20 points)

**Total Points: 100**

**Due Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

***Visit our class page at [TeacherMetzler.com](http://TeacherMetzler.com) for helpful resources!!***

**Have fun.**