Essay #2 / English 404 / Spring 2006

New Due Date: Tues., April 4, 2006 (5 pages)

Pick one of the poems in the assigned reading through week 7 of the syllabus and write an interpretative essay on it, paying particular attention to how the poem relates to its context—literary, cultural, social, or political. This doesn’t mean that you can disregard how the poem is put together and structured internally, but it does mean that you should orient your account of the poem towards the kind of cultural work you see the poem as doing (successfully or not) in the context of its own time.

You may feel like the poem itself (and any annotations that accompany it) give you enough to work with. But you may also want to do some research for this paper. Some useful full-text online resources include: the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*; Literature Online; JSTOR; Project Muse; and the Literature Resource Center.