



The following are topics to consider when selecting a writing assignment. Review the Project Topics and select the ones that interest you. While looking over the examples, jot down ideas or information they feel they could use as a jumping off point. This may assist you in narrowing your choices. You may work alone or within a group consisting of no more than three students. If you find another subject area when doing your research that interests you, submit your request to your teacher for their approval.

## Project Topics:

1. Noh drama grew out of religious rituals, achieving its distinctive form about the fourteenth century. Explore the historical and political reasons why it developed when it did relating it to any parallel developments you note in European medieval drama.
2. Noh was performed outside by all male acting companies. This should sound familiar. Relate the performance of Noh to what you know about the Greek and Elizabethan theaters.
3. Noh is poetic drama. The lines in a Noh play are chanted, sometimes by a chorus when the protagonist is dancing. Musicians are an essential part of the performance. Compare Noh theatre with opera.
4. Noh is performed in elaborate traditional costumes. Most of the roles require the main character to wear a mask. Study the use of masks in drama. Why are masks used? Relate Noh to Greek drama and to the court masques of Europe. Give some thought to the use of heavy makeup as a substitute for masks in kabuki and in ballet. Finally, consider the use of hand props, especially the fan, in Noh.
5. Ritual movement is very important in Noh. Compare the dance movements in Noh to those in ba\_ireb. Examine the movements of the musicians in relation to their actual playing. Also, consider the movements of the other helpers on stage.
6. The set for a Noh play is always the same. Describe this set as it continues to be used today. What reasons-historical, religious, symbolic, theatrical-can you identify for such a set?
7. Noh plays have only: two major characters, the shite and the waki. Describe their roles. Investigate why the number of characters is so limited. Try to place this convention in the aesthetic of haiku, ikebana, sumi-e painting.
8. Noh dramas are divided into five categories based on their subject matter. In performance they are always presented with a second type of play called Kyogen. Explain how Noh and Kyogen are both alike and different. Discuss how a Noh performance is structured, giving examples of the categories of Noh and the specific Kyogen which would be performed.
9. After researching your particular subject area you will be responsible for writing an informational sheet on your topic that will be given to your fellow students. You will be responsible for a 5-minute presentation on your topic and you can create anything that showcases the information you placed in your information sheet.

Submit your project summary for a composition grade.