Final paper prompt

DUE: Monday, June 7, at time and place to be determined by your TA
LENGTH: 6-7 pages, double-spaced, 1” margins, 12-point type

TOPIC DESCRIPTION DUE: hand in a brief 2-4 sentence description of your topic, including the key research questions that you are asking, in section the week of May 28 (the week before Memorial Day). Your TA may accept these by email, at his/her discretion.

This will be an argumentative paper, like the first one, with a clearly focused thesis backed up by evidence from the text. It should also cite at least one secondary source. The preferred secondary source would be either a scholarly book or an essay published in a peer-reviewed journal (whether you read it on paper or as a digital file doesn’t matter); however, you may include other sources you deem to be reliable according to the standards given in the information assessment assignment. The idea of the research element is to encourage you to see yourself in conversation with other scholars on this topic. A citation, you might say, is a way of acknowledging that the conversation was going on before you joined it--but you shouldn’t see that as overwhelming or intimidating. You are still mainly trying to develop an original argument, so don’t let yourself get bowled over by the source; one or two citations from a complementary source should be fine.

If you wish to incorporate evidence from original nineteenth-century sources as well (for instance, the magazine version of a story or book we have read), there are suggestions for research on the “Links” section of the website. You will still need to consult one secondary source, though.

Citations from all sources should be given parenthetically just after the citation, with a Works Cited listing, in MLA style, at the end. If you have any questions about MLA style, see the link on the course webpage.

Finally, this paper should be written on a different text than you used for either of the first two papers--although you may incorporate something you’ve worked on earlier in a comparative way, with your TA’s permission. You may also treat this as an adaptation study and compare an original and an adaptation, using the differences as the basis for your argument. (The adaptation study prompt has some suggestive, but not exhaustive, questions that could guide you.)

BEST SOURCE FOR FINDING SCHOLARLY JOURNAL ARTICLES ON LITERARY TOPICS [this link also on the webpage]:
• MLA Bibliography Database http://library.ucsc.edu/find/databases/a-z?search=mla