

detail in *The Little Seagull Handbook* beginning on page 93. Following this set of instructions you will find a rubric that identifies certain writing competencies we hope to help you achieve with this assignment and others like it. You will find it useful in your peer groups and it will shape your teacher's written or oral comments on your second draft.

Here is a possible stage-by-stage breakdown of the process:

1. **Record your questions** until you have a nice list to choose from. This activity might spin out of a great classroom discussion or week of discussions. It might happen in your peer group, or in conversation with your roommate, or with a tutor at the writing center. Your teacher may provide you some questions that have provoked good papers in the past. See below for several examples.
2. **Pick a question** that most intrigues you, that reasonable people (even your roommate) could answer in different ways, that two or more of our texts treat significantly, and that seems doable in a 5-7 page paper.
3. **Revisit the texts**, to locate episodes and passages that relate to your question. Here we want you to dig deep into those texts, and look closely at what they say and what they suggest.
4. **Draft a thesis** (how you'd answer your question) if by this point your own opinion on the matter at hand is emerging. If not, keep reading, discussing, and drafting.
5. **Draft an introduction** that gets you and your reader into a "they say/I say" conversation on the question you want to raise.
6. **Try to anticipate at least one counterargument** you feel it fair to identify and address.
7. **Draft your paper.**

To recap, whatever you argue, we require that your paper meet the following requirements:

- Be argumentative and thesis-driven
- Focus on a question you generate (or at least reformulate in your own words if you choose to borrow a suggested question or problem)
- Engage meaningfully with at least two Core texts from the current unit
- Be in compliance with MLA guidelines for citation and a works cited page
- Be at least 5-7 pages long

We also require that you meet the following deadlines:

Topic due (with working title and big question identified): _____
 First draft due: 1/30/2014
 Peer group meeting: 2/6/2014
 Second draft due: 2/11/2014