A farmer has a fox, a goose, and a bag of grain, and he has only one boat to cross a stream, which is only big enough to take one of the three across with him at a time. If left alone together, the fox would eat the goose, and the goose would eat the grain. How can the farmer get all three across the stream?

Before trying to solve any logic problem, draw a picture.
The first trip requires the farmer to take the goose across, because it cannot be left with either grain or the fox.
On the next trip, the farmer may take either fox or grain, but then he must bring back the goose.

On the third trip, the farmer takes the remaining item, but leaves the goose on the first shore.
He then makes a fourth trip to bring the goose. Thus, four trips are required, and the goose ends up crossing three times.

Steps in the writing process
1. Inventing & Collecting  
   (Prewriting & research, pp. 28-29)
2. Organizing  
   (Outlining, p. 29)
3. Drafting  
   (First time in paragraph form, p. 29)
4. Revising  
   (Editing: adding, cutting, moving, pp. 29-30)
5. Proofreading  
   (Checking grammar, spelling, etc., pp. 30-31)

Where can you go for additional help?
Academic Success
   Center: YLRC 105
   My Office: YADM 108
   Phone: 813-259-6470
   E-mail: jbielecki@hccfl.edu
Websites (links on MyHCC):
   SmarThinking (access through hccfl.edu)
   Library Guide for this course (http://libguides.hccfl.edu/bielecki)
   Re: Writing (http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rewriting/)
   http://owl.english.purdue.edu

The essential steps in writing a research paper (pp. 64-97)
1. Choosing a topic (formulating a research question)
2. Finding sources
3. Evaluating sources
4. Taking notes
5. Developing a thesis
6. Organizing an outline
7. Writing drafts
8. Revising
9. Documenting sources
10. Preparing the final draft and proofreading
YOUR ASSIGNMENT:
Write a 2,100-2,300-word research paper on a literary topic. You might relate a work to its author’s life, to its historical context, to a mythis, to its author’s or protagonist’s gender (the options are innumerable), but a literary work or works must be the major focus of the paper. The only restriction is that you cannot choose Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein as your sole focus.

1. Choosing a topic (formulating a research question) (pp. 65 and 73)
- Select a literary work(s) that genuinely interests you. Even if the work you choose is short, the assignment won’t be easy if you aren’t enjoying the topic.
- Be sure that the topic you choose can be adequately covered in 2,100-2,300 words.
- Choose a work for which you will find plenty of scholarly resources. [A classic is a good choice.]

2. Finding sources (pp. 65-66 and 73-75)
- Use the databases librarian Jeneice Sorrentino will discuss at our library orientation.
- The Internet and sites like Wikipedia or Bookrags.com may seem like easy places get a general overview of your topic, but they CANNOT be used as cited sources in your paper!
- Start researching NOW!

3. Evaluating sources (pp. 66-68 and 77-78)
- A source is only worth using if it is reliable and provides quality, expert evidence.
- Be sure your sources are up to date and well documented with primary and secondary materials.
- If you must use online sources, be sure to determine their nature and authority!
4. Taking notes (pp. 69-70 and 78-81)

- Record bibliographic information as you take notes so that it will be there when you’re ready to start citing.
- Follow the MLA format in your textbook or MLA handbook.
- Use a dictionary as you read. (dictionary.com, bartleby.com, m-w.com)

5. Developing a thesis (p. 81)

- Use a tentative thesis to get started, but remember that it may change as your research progresses.
- Remember that your thesis must make an arguable claim that requires support (not just state a fact).
- Submit your research question and working thesis statement by Tuesday, September 17!
We’ll cover the rest in another class:

- Organizing an outline (p. 81 and 102-103)
- Writing drafts (pp. 81-82)
- Revising (pp. 81-82)
- Documenting sources (pp. 82-97)
- Preparing the final draft and proofreading

AGAIN, YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Write a 2,100-2,300-word research paper on a literary topic. You might relate a work to its author’s life, to its historical context, to a myth, to its author’s or protagonist’s gender (the options are innumerable), but a literary work or works must be a major focus of the paper. The only restriction is that you cannot choose Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein as your sole focus.

Some ideas to get you thinking:

X = writer of your choice
- X’s use of a specific genre’s literary techniques (e.g., rhyme in sonnets, soliloquy in drama, metaphor in …)
- X’s use of personal experience or memories in his/her works
- The relationship of X’s personal life to one or more works
- The influence of his/her associates on X’s work
- Religious themes/symbols in X’s works

Some ideas to get you thinking:

X = writer of your choice
- The influence of a historical event or person on literary works of the period
- The influence of X’s works on a generation
- Reasons for or against the inclusion or exclusion of a particular work in a literature class (i.e., book banning)
- The function of setting in a particular literary work
- The function of setting in X’s works
- The use of allegory in a particular work

Some ideas to get you thinking:

X = writer of your choice
- Racial themes/symbols in X’s works
- Feminist themes/symbols in X’s works
- Social themes/symbols in X’s works
- Gay or lesbian themes/symbols in X’s works
- Compare/contrast X’s early works with later ones
- Compare/contrast an adaptation of a literary work with the original
- Compare/contrast two similar characters in two authors’ works

For more-specific ideas, see pp. 98-101.

Just be sure to pick SOMETHING THAT INTERESTS YOU!