REQUIREMENTS FOR 4th PAPER—RESEARCH ON POET—Comp. II

AUDIENCE: Assume the class is your audience, one that is less familiar with your
POET than you are. (A little background up front would be OK then.)

PURPOSE: To research the writing life of the POET you have chosen and write a report on
that writing life.

LENGTH: Have at least four-five, FULL, typed, double-spaced pages of text without
counting the heading information on the first page. MORE is OK.

***Pre-writing***

--find TWO Primary Sources: ONE in addition to the ONE POEM read in our class text.

--find TWO Secondary Sources: interviews, which let the POET talk about his/her reasons
for writing or scholarly sources which analyze why the POET writes, are best.

--have a minimum of FOUR sources for this assignment and complete documentation
information for each source on a Works Cited page. (Each of the four sources should be
from a different place so three articles from one magazine would not work.)

--avoid long biographical books; look for short articles instead.

--beware of what you find on the Internet--trust .gov and .edu sites over .biz, .net, and
.com. Even .org sites can be trouble. Use EBSCOhost instead. NO CLIFFS OR SPARK NOTES.

--take notes on your sources and use those notes to write your draft.

***Drafting***

--Make sure you have a title for your work, other than the POET’S name.

--State a clear point/thesis somewhere in the beginning of the essay that makes a comment
on or observation about the POET’S writing life.

--Use the body of your essay to explain the connection you see between the writer’s life
and his/her work. Why does s/he write what s/he writes?

--Use the conclusion to reiterate your thesis (the comment on the POET’S writing life.)

--Bring your best possible draft to peer-critiquing and use the critiques to make
the paper better. If you miss this activity, go to the Writing Center!!!

***Revising/Publishing***

--Use a standard paper format as in The Little, Brown Brief Handbook. (Standard
paper format means one-inch margins all around, 10-12 point font size, regular typing
or computer paper, no title page, etc.)

--ALSO, BE SURE TO USE A PROCESS TO WRITE THIS PAPER AND BE READY TO TURN IN THE
WHOLE PROCESS: NOTES, OUTLINE/PLAN, DRAFTS, PEER-CRITIQUES, FINAL DRAFT. (FOLLOW THE
SUGGESTIONS ON THE WRITING PROCESS IN CHAPTER 17 OF YOUR CLASS TEXT.) MAKE SURE YOU
PHOTOCOPY ALL YOUR SOURCES AND TURN IN ONLY THOSE PAGES USED TO WRITE YOUR PAPER, FROM
WHICH YOU HAVE QUOTED, PARAPHRASED OR SUMMARIZED IDEAS FROM ANY OTHER SOURCE.

NOTE: If you have any problems along the way, stop by during office hours and see me. Also, be sure to turn the paper in on time.
Use e-mail ONLY as a last resort for getting the paper to me on the due date.