

PhD Student Progress Self-Report [Sample]

Name A. Jones

Date January 20, 2013

Faculty Advisor/Mentor: J. Smith

Comprehensive Exam Date: August 28, 2011

Dissertation Proposal Acceptance Date: December 2, 2011

Please describe in specific detail your academic activities during the past year, including research, writing, teaching, and professional activity, as well as your goals for the coming year. Be sure to describe both the current status of your dissertation and your progress toward the PhD degree. [Max 250 words].

In the spring semester of 2012, I drafted my dissertation's first chapter, which examines the status of illness in James Fennimore Cooper's *The Pioneers*. I submitted this draft to Prof. Smith, and my two readers, Prof. Jackson and Prof. Shapiro, on May 10th, and after spending June and July on revisions, I submitted the final version on July 30th. In August, I conducted research for my second chapter at the New York Historical Society. This research focused on opiate use in the work of Edgar Allan Poe's and early nineteenth-century Baltimore, a topic that has been overlooked in the critical history of Poe's short fiction. I gave a presentation drawn from my work on Poe at the American Literature Association symposium, "Sickness and Health in American Fiction" (held in Boston from 21-23 October). The feedback I received at the symposium helped me to complete the chapter draft, which I submitted to Profs. Smith, Jackson, and Shapiro on December 4th. In addition to my dissertation work, I taught one section of Composition I and two sections of Composition II. I also served on the planning committee for the Graduate English Association's conference, "Remembering, Forgetting, Imagining," which will be held on 1-2 March 2013. In the coming year, I plan to revise my chapter on Poe, write my third chapter, which investigates Fanny Fern's attention to illness and recovery in *Ruth Hall*, and conduct initial research for my final chapter, on the language of disease in Emily Dickinson's late verse.

[248 words]