[Created by Liam Ohlemdorf and Michelle Daume, Southeast Missouri State University]

Digital Yoknapatawpha Worksheet

The Monumental Past: "A Rose for Emily"

Objective: To lead students to new discoveries of textual meaning, and to introduce students to digital humanities so that they are exposed to twenty-first-century job market skills. Students should increase their computer skills, gain a better historical knowledge of the story's context, and arrive at a new (or solid) understanding of the story.

Directions:

- Go to the Digital Yoknapatawpha website: http://faulkner.iath.virginia.edu/
- Scroll through the squares at the bottom of the page and click on "A Rose for Emily"
- Explore the map to answer the following questions

1. Click the visualizations tab in the top right corner of the page, go to location-character graphs and scroll down to "A Rose for Emily." It is the seventh link from the bottom. What location has the most connections?

2. Go back to the Digital Yoknapatawpha site and find the Grierson House and the location closest to it and read their descriptions. What connections can you make between these places? How are these places similar and different to Emily?

3. Now click on Major Characters in the Display Control Panel and read Emily Grierson and Homer Barron's biography. Do you think Homer's sexuality is why he wanted to leave Emily? Do you think that is why she killed him?

4. Go back to the location-character graphs for "A Rose for Emily" and find the locations Homer Barron is connected to. Notice that he is connected to all of the same places as Emily besides the Cemetery. What does this say about Homer's connection to the future as opposed to Emily's connection to the past?

5. Google the symbolism of roses. Is it consistent with the use of roses in "A Rose for Emily?" Explain. In the "Audio Clips" section (accessed through the Display Controls bar), Faulkner is asked about the story's title. Listen to his answer to that question (and the other ones). Do his words change your understanding of the symbolism of roses or the symbolism overall in the story?