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Research Prospectus

I am interested in determining the reaction of European high culture to the French Revolution and the subsequent reign of Napoleon. At this point I am interested creating a distinction between the reaction of the pre-eminent artists, composers, and writers within France, and those in the surrounding nations. From the viewpoint of the former I will investigate the role the arts played in shaping the French Revolution, from the viewpoint of the latter I will try to determine how the arts affected the perception of the public and the gentry towards the events in France, and how those perceptions manifested themselves within the other European nations. The primary focus will be the Romanticists, though some Enlightenment pieces may make their way into the paper.

Since the research is covering multiple geographical regions, I will need several different research documents, likely translated from several different languages. For the issue of France, I intend to research the works of Victor Hugo, Alexandre Dumas, François-René de Chateaubriand, Honoré de Balzac, and Eugene Delacroix. Though Hugo's best known work, *Les Miserables*, is set after the French Revolution, it may provide commentary on the affects that the Revolution had on the people of France. Dumas' *Count of Monte Cristo*, also set in the beginning of France's Second Empire and allows insight into Dumas' opinion of Napoleon and the Bonapartist movement.

The works outside of France will probably make up the majority of the paper. Works by Beethoven, Chopin, Wagner, and Mozart will be considered for music; I am interested in understanding how the events of the late 18th century changed music -- Beethoven's *Eroica* will be an excellent source, but I do

not yet want to rule out works from the other composers mentioned. Literature will likely make up the bulk of the research with contributions from Goethe (*The Sorrows of Young Werther*), Alexander Pushkin, William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Blake being the primary foci. Particularly, I am interested in examining how these writers contributed to the sense of nationalism that emerged in several nations following the French Revolution.

As far as primary source documents go, there are several I have in mind, but these will not be all-encompassing. *The Chouans* by Honoré de Balzac, *Ninety-Three* by Hugo, as well as portions of the novels mentioned by Dumas and Hugo will be read. The works of the poets and authors mentioned will be read, and analysis on the music of Beethoven, Mozart, Chopin, and Wagner; with much attention to the commentary on Beethoven's *Eroica*.