

Successions - Assignment One
Due: Monday, August 8th



On Tuesday, August 9th, we will have the privilege of meeting with Jeffrey S. Cramer at the Thoreau Institute, in the middle of Walden Woods, where we will discuss the writings of Henry David Thoreau. We will be going with several goals in mind, both as a group and as individuals. First of all, and in light of our interest in the essay by Boris Groys, we will be asking Jeff about how to best learn from what Henry has to teach us about working on research projects on our own, as Henry is famous for doing so, and Jeff himself spends many hours each week working by himself in the Thoreau archives. Secondly, we will be searching for answers regarding the proper approach to research, particularly as this involves the balance and appropriation of ideas that are not our own. Finally, we will be well armed in this endeavor, as we will have had the advantage of watching Jeff's presentation from last year prior to our visit. With these things in mind, please write a few paragraphs in response to the following:

- 1). What would you most like to ask Jeff about the challenges of research, particularly as these involve the need to balance our own thoughts with those of others? Think about the nature of authority as this relates to the ideas of others, and to the citation of texts.
- 2). What would you most like to ask Jeff about his work with Thoreau?
- 3). After viewing the three parts of Jeff's presentation on line, please discuss those things which most interest you from the lecture in its entirety. In addition, say a thing or two about how you might be able to apply what you have learned from his talk to the project that you will be completing for this program.

If at all possible, please type your work, using double spacing and 11 or 12 size font.