ENG253  
Week #6: Weekly Reading and Writing

READ
          Thomas Jefferson, p 273 – 282

Thursday Abigail Adams, p 282 – 285
          Sarah Grimke and Angelina Grimke, p 443 – 450

Write in response to one or two of the following:

- On the “Literature of the New Republic,” your editors write: “Writers seemed to be everywhere, aggressively addressing the pressing issues of the time. In no other period of American literary history would writers so passionately involve themselves with so strong a sense of public responsibility in such crucial public debates” (Harper 258). What are the “pressing issues” of our time? Identify one and then imagine and describe a literary equivalent to something like the Declaration or The Federalist or Common Sense.

- The Declaration of Independence is one of our great American deductive arguments. Analyze Jefferson’s powerful rhetoric. Or consider approaching this text as a poem. Analyze Jefferson’s poetic devices.

- In what ways has the Declaration been a foundation document in your political life? Among the heroes and leaders in your life, who has used the Declaration to put forward their own vision? In what ways would you use the principles of the Declaration to advocate causes in your public/political life? If you are so moved, make that argument by basing your reasoning on the Declaration.

- Characterize the position of women in the 18th century America of the Grimke sisters. Then describe the Grimke’s contribution to women’s voices. Finally, if you are so moved, consider writing this in a dialogue between the sisters.

- Create your own prompt. Begin your writing with your prompt.