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Humanities

### Edgar Allan Poe's Innovative Writing

Edgar Allan Poe is often credited with writing the first detective story. His writing is unique in many ways, but the three techniques focused on in my research were his use of psychology, his use of a European setting, and his creation of the genre of Detective Fiction. The stories focused on are “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Murders in the Rue Morgue.”

Much of the research was done in the classroom with Dr. Toliver, in my Senior Seminar class on Edgar Allan Poe and Nathaniel Hawthorne. I've read a plethora of Poe's works along with many other critical pieces on his work.

Poe is most famous for his horror stories, with one of the most well-known being “The Tell-Tale Heart.” In this story, I explore Poe's use of psychology, instead of the supernatural, to create a sense of horror. While Poe has many famous stories, some of the lesser known stories are his Detective Fiction works. My research focuses specifically on “The Murders in the Rue Morgue” as the first successful detective story. While it is a detective story, the setting in this story only serves to add to the horror of the tale.