The Literature of the New World
You’re Going to Make a Long Journey Overseas. Why?

• You can do better than where you are.
• Liberate yourself from where you are.
• Universe is on your side.
• (Anticipates the revolution).
What Might You Write About?

- Send money?
- Justification for why you’re there.
- How good it is?
- How much you’re improving.
New World Assumptions

1. There is a coherent order reflected in nature.
2. That order is beneficent to humanity.
3. Humans are perfectible.
4. Evil exists not within people but as a result of faulty social institutions.
New World cont’d.

• Imagined before it is experienced. Renaissance tension between experience / authority, between how it “is” and how it “should be.”

• Natives fit into preconceived stereotypes, “other.” (See Columbus, 39).

• In the South, search for gold, not settlement (labor into wealth)

• Puritans, divine mission--“citty on a hill" John Winthrop called it (Steve Forbes).
Puritans

• Millennial (absolute)
• All events are signs. Providence.
• “Jeremiad” (return to lost purity)
• “The plaine style, with singular regard unto the simple truth in all things”– William Bradford
• Anticipates Romanticism and American Transcendentalism (Ruland 19)