Literary Criticism Guide

Literary criticism involves analysis and evaluation of an author's work(s). Since finding authoritative critical works for literature can be difficult, this guide has been prepared to aid you in your search. You should include background historical and biographical information in your search to gain insight into events influencing your assigned author. Many published critical essays do not discuss specific titles, but evaluate the writer's work as a whole. Even if your assigned piece is not addressed, these publications can help you interpret the particular work you are analyzing.

Start at the College Homepage
www.worwic.edu
select Quick Links > Library Services

➢ Research Databases (can be used from on and off campus)

  Academic OneFile

  Academic Search Premier

  Artemis Literary Sources (includes Literature Resource Center, Scribner Writers on GVRL, Twayne’s Writers on GBRL, and MLA International Bibliography)

  Biography in Context (for background information on author)

  Credo Reference (for dictionaries and literary reference book content)

  Encyclopedia Britannica Online

  JSTOR (contains Language and Literature collection)

  Literary Reference Center

  Literature Online

  OED Online (Oxford English Dictionary traces development of forms and meanings of a word, good for symbolism)

  ProQuest Central

  Student Resources in Context

Database Search Tips:

• For database descriptions, select Literature in Research Databases by Subject list.
• Used MLA citations for articles when given in the database, but check accuracy with Wor-Wic's Citing Sources: MLA Style handout.
• Use quotation marks around the title of a work when keyword searching (helps in some databases).
• Use Advanced Search, making the appropriate selection in the drop-down box and selecting “criticism” or “critical essay” in document type if that option is given.
• Select printer-friendly option before printing article.
• Full page symbol means article is available in full text; landscape style symbol means abstract or citation only.
• If you don’t limit to full text, you will see other citations for which you may be able to find the articles in another database or at SU’s Blackwell Library.

➢ Useful Websites – Select Research Guides under Handouts, then English.

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