

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

Gale Biography in Context (for background information)

Credo Reference (for dictionaries and literary reference book content)

Encyclopedia Britannica Online

JSTOR (contains Language and Literature collection)

Literary Reference Center

Literature Online (Select Criticism & Reference; example: death of a salesman in keyword box; Miller, Arthur in author/subject box)

Literature Resource Center (includes MLA International Bibliography)

Sample Advanced Search:

Death of a Salesman (title exact match in drop-down box)
Arthur Miller (author exactly in drop-down box)
Select Critical Essay in Document Type and All Databases
Click on one of entries to see full text
Click on printer icon for printer-friendly version of article

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

ProQuest Central

Gale Student Resources in Context

Other Database Search Tips:

- 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 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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