

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

Services & Support > Academic Support > Resource Centers (Library)

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

- *Academic OneFile*
- *Academic Search Premier*
- *Gale Biography* (for background information on author)
- *Credo Reference* (for dictionaries and literary reference book content)
- *JSTOR* (contains Language and Literature collection)
- *Literary Reference Center*
- *Literature Online*
- *Literature Resource Center*
- *ProQuest Central*

Database Search Tips:

- For database descriptions, select Literature in Research Databases by Subject list.
- Use MLA citations for articles when given in the database, but check accuracy with MLA Handbook.
- 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.
- If you do not limit to full text, you will see other citations for which you may be able to find the articles in another database.

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