

Literary Criticism Reaction and Research Paper

Directions: Select a novel, read it, love it, and research its criticism. Remember, criticism refers to both negative and positive analyses. I suggest a novel from the 12 AP list because there will be a lot of criticism in our library. Your paper must explain, react, and expand upon three critical reviews. *You must discuss your original thoughts based on your research.* Your paper will be a reaction to the novel and the three critical reviews. Follow all the rules of standard written English and adhere to all MLA rules. Your paper must be a minimum of six pages in length, and it may not exceed ten pages. In addition, your paper should have a works-cited page, including your primary novel and literary criticisms (do separate citations even if the articles come from the same book).

Getting Started:

- Read your novel.
- Jot down your reactions: literary observations, ideas, likes and dislikes, themes, purposes, relevant literary devices, and interesting structural components.

Research Process:

- We will spend time in the library, conducting research.
- The librarians and I will show you many excellent collections of literary criticism (both in print and electronic).
- Read several critical reviews about your book. Choose your three favorites.
 - Annotate these three criticisms.
 - Comment on their ideas and expand upon them.

Organization:

Introduction:

- Introduce your novel, author, and publishing date.
- Introduce the premise of your novel (5 – 8 sentences approximately: main characters, setting, conflict, and theme).
- Introduce the titles/authors of your three pieces of literary criticism.

Body:

- Explain the first piece of literary criticism.
- Respond to this first piece of criticism and share your original thoughts. Do not use 1st person, personal pronouns (I, me, my, we, our, us) or 2nd person, personal pronouns (you and yours).
- You can simply respond in declarative sentences. Here are some sentence starters:
 - Ms. Smith's assertion is valid because...
 - Mr. Jones's negative review is unfounded because...
 - In addition to Ms. Goldstein's view, it is also reasonable to suggest...
 - Perhaps Ms. Smith's focus is biased...
 - Mr. Jones is correct to highlight and praise Faulkner's use of stream of consciousness because...
 - Ms. Goldstein's opinion can be further supported by...
 - Ms. Smith fails to take into account...
 - Mr. Jones seems to neglect...
 - Ms. Goldstein is correct to take exception to the author's use of popular stereotypes.
- Of course, you should expand upon the above examples. And, integrate your own ideas within the explanation/discussion of the article (do not just tack on your opinion at the end)

NOTE: You may break this into several paragraphs.

Body:

- Repeat above for second piece of literary criticism.

Body:

- Repeat above for third piece of literary criticism.

Conclusion:

- Yes, restate novel, author, and main points, but you should primarily make final observations (conclusions) about your novel's literary merit.

Paper Due Date: _____