

Lesson 14: Literary Criticism

Lesson Objectives:

- The student will conduct research, in order to gain an understanding of literary criticism.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to read and evaluate a poem of his or her choosing.
- The student will develop a well written, well organized and thoughtful analysis of the poem.
- The student will demonstrate knowledge in literary devices and techniques, such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, etc. by discussing these elements in his or her critique of the poem.
- The student will demonstrate the ability to evaluate and analyze literary criticism.

The world is full of different kinds of literature. Everyone has an opinion about literature. People know what they like and what they don't. Some people even make a career out of criticizing other people's literary work.

This lesson will introduce you to the world of literary criticism.

Grading Rubric:

To get a 10: A total score of 10 points from the table below.

To get a 9: A total score of 9 points from the table below.

To get an 8: A total score of 8 points from the table below.

To get a 7: A total score of 7 points from the table below.

To get a 6: A total score of 6 points from the table below.

To get a 5: Any score lower than a 6; Plagiarism – purposeful or mistaken, which will lower your final grade for the course (So, be very careful when posting your work!); lack of effort, disrespect, or attitude. Lesson requirements have not been met.

Ideas and Analysis	Development and Support	Organization	Word Choice and Sentence Fluency	Language Conventions
The content is well-reasoned,	Thesis is fully supported by apt evidence and examples, and essay meets the length	There is a strong thesis, an apt	Sentences are clear, concise, with varied	Flawless



insightful, interesting and adds significance to the topic. 2 points	requirement. Sources are cited in MLA format. 2 points	intro/body/conclusion, and logical transitions. 2 points	structure. Word choice is apt and intelligent. 2 points	2 points
The content is on topic but fallacious or facile. 1 point	Evidence for thesis is vague or general, And/Or essay length is between 60% and 85% of word requirement. MLA source citations have some formatting errors. 1 point	There is a guiding idea, but thesis statement is not identifiable. And/Or Work is divided into paragraphs which are not tightly focused. And/Or Conclusion introduces new ideas. 1 point	Some sentences are awkwardly worded, but overall it reads well. 1 point	Strong with a few minor errors (less than 5) 1 point
Content has little to do with the assignment. 0 points	Essay is less than 60% of word requirement And/Or support for thesis is sparse or irrelevant. Source citations are un-formatted. 0 points	Rambling And/Or disordered And/Or no paragraphs. 0 points	Run-ons, fragments, and misused words. 0 points	Weak with many errors (more than 5) 0 points

Assignment:

Do not submit text that you have copied from sources, including websites. All of your work should be in your own words. Using copied text would be considered plagiarism. For more information, review our page on [Plagiarism and Citation](#)

This lesson has three parts. You must submit all three parts.

Part 1:

Use the Internet and research what literary criticism is. Find some examples of literary criticism and study what you find. Provide a list of sources for your research, and write a brief summary in your own words telling me what you've learned.

Part 2:

Choose a poem of at least 10 lines written by one of the following poets:

John Keats

William Blake



William Wordsworth

T.S. Eliot

Walt Whitman

e.e. cummings

Identify the poet and the poem you have chosen. Create a **300-word essay that describes the tone, content, and structure of the poem.** Provide your opinion of the work, and please type out, or provide a link to, the poem at the end of the essay so I can see what you have read.

Part 3:

Find an example of literary criticism in regards to poetry. Here are a couple good places to start looking:

<http://www.ipl.org/div/litcrit/>

<http://www.cprw.com/>

Provide the link where you found the specific criticism you are discussing. Then create a **200- word essay evaluating and providing your opinion regarding to the nature of the criticism.** Do you agree or disagree with the criticism? Explain why.

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