

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> person, personal pronouns (I, me, my, we, our, us) or 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:** \_\_\_\_\_