

Important points for Literary Criticism Paper:

- I) What aspects you are using:
1. One or more literary work(s) (novel/book/play/poem) Primary Source(s)
 2. What YOU perceive as a main feature of the primary source(s) can be character, symbolism, or issues such as aspect of another discipline (history, philosophy, psychology, sociology, political science/law, or science/medicine). NOTE that this factor depends on the assignment and should be **focused** rather than general such as: "the main theme of Rose for Emily is **Resistance to Change**" rather than: "Faulkner uses **themes and symbolism** in Rose for Emily"
- II) Concentrate on:
1. Using criticism about the literary work (discussion of characters, settings, themes,) **NOTE:** biographical information (how the author's geography, experiences, culture, ...influenced his/her writing) MAY not be acceptable for the paper. Often papers concentrate almost exclusively on biographical information so limit focusing on author's life UNLESS it is part of the assignment!!!!
 2. Emphasize a central feature of the work (character/symbolism/theme, ..) or discipline (history/legal aspect, psychology) and find supporting information such as description of trauma in psychology or articles on diversity/culture in sociology or timeline of racism in history.
 3. Link #1 (literary work) and #2 (theme or aspect of discipline) with as much support as possible by:
 - i. Either using information from a critic discussing how the 2 fit together [best way – you have a very strong link from an expert] (such as an article by a critic discussing psychological trauma in Silas Marner) **or**
 - ii. Logically connect the 2 as well as possible by tying in your own connections and using closely related information from your literary critiques & examination of the discipline [if you can't find support of a critic or expert in the discipline who actually states your connection then create your own logical connections backed up as possible by support from your research] (for example showing how racism is historically portrayed in 3 literary works of 3 different historical eras).
- III) How to proceed:
1. Choose topic early AND get it approved
 2. Go ahead and organize your paper early then fill in the blanks:
 - a. thesis statement: your **own** hypothesis about the subject
 - b. supporting paragraphs: use quotes/paraphrasing from the critics together with information **YOU** take from the work itself to support **your** hypothesis
 - c. conclusion
 - d. works cited
 3. Do your research as early as possible because you may need to GIL Express or InterLibrary Loan material which we don't have in the library or online. (check with front desk 229-317-6766)
- IV) Sources: ***SEE <http://www.darton.edu/~dclib/LibraryOrientation.php> for info on resources from **Print Handout to Citing MLA to GALILEO Password Video*****
1. Books if any on assignment list
 2. Literary Criticism Reference books (*CLC, Short Stories for Students, Masterplots, ...*)
NOTE: some like Short Stories for Students is available online via GALILEO!!!
 3. Books from the GIL-Find library catalog searching on subjects such as "criticism and angelou", "psychology and literature", "culture and literature" etc. note **Cite link** (add "Print." for MLA)
 4. Articles from GALILEO databases such as EbscoHost (Academic Search Complete>Choose Databases> Literature Databases, ABI/INFORM Complete (at ProQuest)> ProQuest Home> Literature & Language, Literature Online Reference Edition, etc. **NOTE:** Ebsco and Proquest have a **Cite link**
- V) MLA Style: GIL-Find and some GALILEO databases have a CITATION icon (**Cite link**) that will automatically create an MLA style citation for that article! For GIL-Find and certain others you need to add or change a few things so check the MLA book or the Citing MLA info from the Sources link above.