

Literary Criticism

** To help you brainstorm writing for your ISU

There are several ways you can criticize a piece of literature

They can be divided into many different categories...below are just a few...

Impressionistic: Emphasizes how the work of art affects the critic (you)

Historical: Examines the work against its historical surroundings and the facts of its author's life and time

Formal: Examines the work in terms of the characteristics of the type or genre to which it belongs

Analytical: Attempts to get at the nature of the work as an object in itself through the detailed analysis of its parts and their organization

Moral: Evaluates the work in relation to human life

Mythic: Explores the nature and significance of the archetypes and archetypal patterns within the work

Phenomenological: Makes an existential (existence over essence) analysis of the worlds created in the consciousness by the language of art