

Critical Model Presentation & Essay

I. PRESENTATION

To gain a better understanding of at least one critical theory, each student will give a presentation (**15 minutes maximum**) on a particular critical model, using a passage from *Heart of Darkness* to exemplify it. The presentation will include in equal parts:

1. A *brief* summary of one literary critical model (determined by the day on which you present),
2. A *brief* summary and discussion of an article from *Norton* (that is listed on the readings for your presentation day) pertaining to that model, and
3. A *brief* analysis of a sample text taken from *Heart of Darkness* or a literary text from the corresponding *Texts & Contexts* chapter. This is the most important portion of your presentation; do not neglect it.

It's your job to decide what is most important to show/tell the class. Therefore be discerning about the information and dynamic about the presentation. If you go over the time limit, your presentation grade will suffer, so please time yourself.

Preparing the Presentation:

These presentations provide a foundation for our class discussions on a particular critical model. If you fail to deliver a coherent and quality presentation, not only does your grade suffer but also your peers because they will not understand the requirements and use of the critical model. For this reason, it is advisable to allow yourself at least two weeks of preparation time and at least one visit to my office hours. You may use anything to help us better understand your critical model. In the past, students have used cartoons, videos, paintings, sculptures around campus, etc. And, because we're in a techno-savvy room, feel free to use the SmartBoard or to display something from your laptop. Avoid handing out your presentation notes as a supplement; everyone will then read your notes instead of listening to you.

The following will aid in preparing your presentation for each section:

1. a. Consult *Texts and Contexts* and the Payne *Dictionary* (on course reserve) to define your critical model. Be sure to point us to these pages during your presentation.
b. If you are still having difficulty, see the Online Resources (http://www.sjsu.edu/faculty/harris/LitCrit_Links.htm). Absolutely avoid any entries from Wikipedia, teacher's notes or other student projects found online.
2. a. Read the introduction to your *Norton* article; it often provides a succinct summary of the critic's intentions.
b. Expect to read the critical article many times to make sure your understanding is precise and accurate.
c. Identify how the critic uses your particular critical model.
d. Underline key passages that will be helpful for your audience to look at while you present.
3. a. Choose ½ of a page from *Heart of Darkness* or a literary text from *Texts and Context* (that is not on the schedule or is not explained in *T&C*) to apply your critical model and to demonstrate your critic's ideas. Show us how to use this model on literature to critique it.
b. Avoid simply noticing that, for instance, gender is important in *Heart of Darkness*. Provide an **argument** using your particular critical model to analyze the literary text.
c. Pay attention to the details in the literary text: language, imagery and structure (see the "How to Read Fiction" handout from the first day of class).

II. WRITTEN ESSAY

The week following your presentation, a 1500-word written essay is due. The essay will contain all of the elements that you presented, but in greater detail and in a formal MLA style including a Works Cited. Provide an equal amount of space to each of the 3 sections of your presentation – DO NOT FORGET TO PROVIDE THE 3RD SECTION, THE ARGUMENT. Essay grades will be reduced for inaccurate citation and Works Cited submissions.

Writing the Essay:

1. Create an original title for your essay.
2. Follow MLA conventions for in-text citation. A reference for the essay(s) should be supplied in a "Works Cited" page following the last page of your essay.
3. Identify the critic (#2) by his/her full name in the first reference; identify the title of the critical essay.
4. Outline the main points made by the critic (#2).
5. Conduct your analysis (#3) in the present tense.
6. Aim for an effective balance between direct quotation, paraphrase, and summary. Use in-text parenthetical references to indicate page numbers for all three.
7. When you quote directly from the essay, you should usually provide a paraphrase of the critic's meaning.
8. Do not end paragraphs with a direct quotation. Usually this means that commentary on your part is missing.

Formatting & Submitting the Essay:

A paper copy of this written essay is due *the week following your presentation at the beginning of class*. Late papers will receive the penalization indicated on our Greensheet. Failure to follow the below requirements will result in a lower grade. Please read them carefully!

- 1500 words, typed and double-spaced in 12pt font with one inch margins
- Name, date, course and section number typed at the top left corner of the first page
- Name and page number typed in upper right corner of every page following the first page
- Staple the pages together (DO NOT FOLD OR PAPERCLIP YOUR PAGES)
- Proofread everything before you turn it in; there should be no spelling or typographical errors
- Submit to Turnitin.com for verification. (No grade will be return until this is done.)

GRADING

You will receive two grades for this assignment: **The first** will assess your Presentation, which will be based on its effectiveness (preparation, comprehension, depth). **A second grade** will be assigned to your written Essay, which will be based on your ability to communicate your ideas in a formal piece of writing (see the "Departmental Grading Policy" on the Greensheet).