American Literature Analysis (1865 – Present)
LSC-University Park Library
Assignment Guide for ENGL 2328 | C. Barr

“Before [American literature] can exist, an original idea must animate this nation and fresh currents of life must call into life fresh thoughts along the shore.” – Margaret Fuller

Vast changes have occurred in American society from the postbellum world to today, and our literature from each period reflects that, from the style of the writing to how (or if) various subjects are addressed. In doing a critical analysis, you will be essentially arguing for some component included by the author that contributes meaning to the literary work.

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<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Your Instructor</th>
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<td>Pick a literary work (short story, novel, poem or play) by an American author 1865-present and write a critical analysis utilizing a minimum of 3 sources (primary and at least 2 secondary).</td>
<td>Christine Barr English Adjunct Faculty <a href="mailto:Christine.B.Barr@lonestar.edu">Christine.B.Barr@lonestar.edu</a></td>
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Meet Your Librarian

Elaine M. Patton
[Elaine.M.Patton@lonestar.edu](mailto:Elaine.M.Patton@lonestar.edu)

Possible Works/Authors Include:
- Emily Dickinson, assorted poems
- Mark Twain, *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
- W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*
- Willa Cather, *My Antonia*
- Robert Frost, assorted poems
- Langston Hughes, assorted poems, novels, plays
- Arthur Miller, *Death of a Salesman*
- Sylvia Plath, *The Bell Jar*, assorted poems
- Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
Resources for Your Research

When you find a useful article or book, be sure to note the subject terms associated with it for your own search purposes. Also peruse the works cited pages of the sources you find to lead you to other books and articles.

Books & Ebooks

The UP library is digital. You can request books or resources from other libraries through the catalog or download or read online eBooks.

If you’re off-campus, log in using your ID barcode number.

Some books will be centered around a theme and have mentions have various authors throughout:

Some authors will have entire books centered around solely their works:

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Databases

Library databases contain articles, newspapers, images, documents, papers, media and more. The databases selected for you here are best for critical analysis of literature.

Make use of the advanced search features!

- **Bloom’s Literary Reference Online**
  Essays and criticisms on great authors and their works
- **Literature Resource Center**
  Journal articles & critical essays. Search under the Works Search tab for your selected title.
  
  ![Literature Resource Center](image)

  - **JSTOR**
    Journal articles for the humanities. Try limiting your results to “Language & Literature.”
  - **Contemporary Literary Criticism Select**
    Critical essays for contemporary literature
  - **Project Muse**
    - Diacritics journal
### Videos
- **Films on Demand**
  Full-length films from reputable sources.

### Internet Sites
- **IPL2 Literary Criticism Collection**
  *Index of critical and biographical sites on authors & their works*
- **Literary History**
  *Index of literary criticism by author, some on the web, others through databases*
- Look for official websites dedicated to the author of your work, as these may often include analyses:
  - William Faulkner Society
  - Toni Morrison Society
  - Comforts of Home: The Flannery O’Connor Repository

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| The library (building 12, 8th floor) has hard copy guides to MLA, APA, and Chicago styles, or you can use the online MLA guide.  
  - LSCS's Citation Help page  
  - Purdue’s OWL MLA Guide | Contact the librarians!  
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  - Call: 281-401-5390  
  - Email: UPLibrary-ref@lonestar.edu  
  - Chat (during regular library hours) |

→ Many databases will generate citations for you, but they are not guaranteed to be formatted and punctuated correctly. Always double check!