

## Research: Critical Review and Abstract

*Contemporary Literature*

Book: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Week 1: Gathering Information

*One-third of your novel should be complete by the end of the week*

- Find and read **one** critical review of your novel.

*A critical review is an credible essay or article, written by a reputable book critic, in which he or she takes an analytical view (hence the term “critical”) of your novel, evaluating the work based on any number of literary criticisms—technique, style, theme, significance, cultural influence, etc.*

#### Possible sources include:

- literary reviews (*Paris Review, The Hudson Review, Michigan Quarterly Review, etc.*)
- book reviews (*NY Times Book Review, London Review of Books, NY Review of Books, etc.*)
- magazines (*Atlantic, Time, New Yorker, Life, etc.*)
- newspapers (*Chicago Tribune, NY Times, LA Times, etc.*)
- local library and EHS Media Center databases (i.e., First Search, Wilson Select, etc.)

#### What sources can be considered as credible?

- materials published within last 10 years or around the time of your primary source
- research articles written by respected and well-known authors
- websites registered by government and educational institutions (.gov, .edu, .ac)
- academic databases
- materials from Google Scholar

#### What sources should be avoided?

- out-of-date materials
- posts from social networks (i.e. Facebook)
- blogs
- research articles without citations (no author, credible institution, etc.)
- websites ending in .com, .org, .net, etc.

- Cite your reviews in MLA style and write a separate abstract below your citation of at least 150 words  
*An abstract is a formal 3<sup>rd</sup>-person statement summarizing both the content **and** purpose of an article.*

### **Rubric: Source and Abstract**

- 11-point Times New Roman, 1 ½ line spacing, and one-inch margins
- Name, course, and period at the upper left and the word “Abstract” centered as title
- Citation formatted properly (MLA) beneath the abstract
  - Credibility of source (critical review)
    - credentialed author and publication
    - title of the review
    - date of publication
    - substantial length and content
- Content summarized
- Purpose identified and explained
- Abstract at least 150 typed words

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