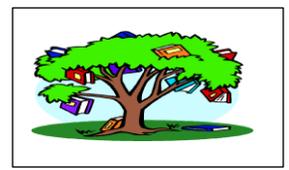


Toward Better Literacy: Reference Outlines



Literary Analysis

Interpretive and Critical Strategies:

- Formalism: establishes a connection between the text's ideas and its form.
- Deconstruction: the meaning in a piece is in the way the text breaks down
- Historical: examines the prevailing ideas and assumptions of a particular historical era
- Biographical: relationship between the text and the author (life or other works interpret events)
- Political: relationship between the text and a political ideology (stories are agenda-focused)
- Psychoanalytic: employs the systems of explanation developed by Freud: sex and aggression
- Archetypal: cultural and psychological myths shape meaning
- Reader response: analyzes the way readers experience and find meaning in the text

Critical Analysis:

- Logical relationship between parts and observations
- When entering into critical analysis, be sure to come up with a set of questions that are delimited and reasonable
- Types of analysis include:
 - Descriptive: how the text works toward what it is intended for
 - Evaluative: is the evidence reliable and the logic sound? Is the argument convincing, the position tenable, and the thesis plausible? Be sure your reader knows what the standards for evaluation are ahead of any judgment
 - Interpretive: coming to an understanding of what is stated. Certain rules apply (hermeneutics)
 - Always read things in context (logic)
 - Honor convention (literal is literal and symbolic is symbolic)
 - The genre determines how a piece is read
 - The internal and external world of the author is important
 - The author sometimes says more than he knows
- Plausibility comes from convincing the reader through two means:
 - Deductive or a priori: moving from a presupposition, then supporting it with particulars
 - Inductive or a posteriori: forming acceptable beliefs from a particular data
 - Every discipline has a philosophy or way of thinking (historical work and scientific work, for example, have different principles of procedure, interpretation, and conclusion)