**AP Literature: Literary Theories Group Project**

**Criticism: The study, analysis, interpretation, and history of literature. It is a dialogue.**

 ***“Criticism asks what literature is, what it does, and what it is worth.” Encyclopedia Britannica.***

Literary criticism analyzes, interprets, and evaluates works of literature. Though you most often find criticism in the form of an essay, in-depth book reviews may also be considered criticism. Criticism may analyze an individual work of literature. It may also examine an author’s body of work.

**Why use literary criticism?**

* Literary criticism is the act of interpreting literature.
* Authors present us with work that can have multiple meanings, expecting us to consider thoughtfully---to interpret. Writers and critics build on each others’ understanding of a work of literature in a kind of dialogue. Noted authors often have a body of criticism attached to their work. Critics evaluate and debate the ideas of fellow critics. Good criticism can help us develop a better understanding of a work. It can help us develop a point of view about a work, whether or not we agree with the opinions of the critic.

**Objective:** Use scholarly articles and www.scholar.google.com to gather, organize and synthesize useful information from multiple digital and print sources in a format that shows your understanding of your assigned theory and aids in others’ comprehension of the theory.

**Your Task:** Research your assigned school of literary criticism with a small group of your peers. You will need to answer the following research questions:

- What is the definition of this school of literary criticism?

- What is the origin? How did it develop?

- Who are some major theorists of this lens?

 - What questions do these critics ask?

- What is an example of how these critics interpret literature?

**Product:** Your product will consist of three parts

1) Organize your findings in a coherent, logical Prezi/Power Point to teach your classmates about your assigned literary theory. **40 points**

2) Provide a short 10-15 minute lesson in which you give the class an activity that asks them to apply your literary theory to a piece of literature they haven’t seen before. **30 points**

3) After the class better understands your theory, you will provide an interpretation of Jane Eyre using your assigned literary theory (prezi/powerpoint) **30 points**

Be prepared to walk your classmates through the key components of your literary theory. You may organize your presentation in a creative, interactive manner. Your presentation should last approximately **30 minutes.**