

Critical Theory Research Assignment

EngWr 482

Over the course of the semester, develop a solid sense of familiarity with **one** of the schools of critical theory. I expect you to apply that understanding in class discussions, offering critical analysis of our texts using your developing insights of the theory, and, of course, in your written assignments, both the responses posted on D2L and the formal essay assignments. The growth in your understanding should be evident over the course of the semester, and you can use your written analysis to track the growth of that understanding. (But please understand that you will likely use *more than the one* critical theory when you write.)

You will submit a brief written explanation (750 to 1000 words, not including the works cited page) of that theoretical approach, providing specific references to researched sources and specific applications, examples taken from the assigned texts, explaining the *significance* of the theory and how (why?) it is useful in the example you are exploring. You may work on this in groups—and I *strongly* suggest that you do—but each of you must submit your own written explanation.

Schools of Critical Theory

Formative—Structuralist—Naturalism

Semiology

Postcolonial

You **must** select
from this list.

Phenomenology

Marxist

Psychoanalytical—*Lacanian* (also Freudian and Jungian)

Poststructuralism

Postmodern

Feminist

Queer

Performative

Narrative