Your 200-level English class focuses on the literature of a specific time, place, or genre. This worksheet provides a convenient place to gather notes about the sources you might use to write your research paper.

**Step One: The Novel Itself**

The first step in the process is finding a copy of the novel you have chosen. If you have your own personal copy, it is not necessary to find the library’s copy of the book, but it will still be helpful to look at the description of the story in the library’s catalog. If you do not have your own personal copy, you should get one from the library as soon as possible to get started on the project.

Begin your research on the library web page: [http://library.tctc.edu](http://library.tctc.edu) and the “Get Books” Quick Link.

The instructions for finding a copy of your title in the library’s catalog are on the next page of this handout. If you need a copy, write the call number and location of the book here:

Call number: _______________________________________________________

Location: _________________________________________________________

When you find your title in the catalog, click the “catalog record” link to see a description of the plot and possibly information on the characters, time period, and setting. Some of the subject headings might be helpful in your research. If you find any information you feel you might need later, write the terms here:

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Types of literary criticism

Studies of themes or topics in multiple authors across a genre or time period

- Understanding the Literature of World War I
- American Women Fiction Writers 1900-1960

Studies of a single author’s works

- Henry David Thoreau: A Critical Study
- Student Companion to Willa Cather
- The Fiction of Stephen Crane
- Stephen King’s America
- Khaled Hosseini’s The Kite Runner
- Hemingway’s Craft
- Bloom’s Modern Critical Views (series)

Studies of individual works

- A Reading of Moby Dick
- Bloom’s Modern Critical Interpretations (series)
- Norton Critical Editions

Look for these words to identify literary criticism:

- Commentary
- Critical interpretation
- Critical analysis
- Critical study
- “A reading of...”
- “A study of...”

Any item on your results list that has the name “Harold Bloom” as the editor, such as the two titles above, or contains the word “Bloom’s...” in the title (see box at right) is likely to be a collection of critical essays, which is just what you are looking for. A keyword search for “Norton Critical Edition” will turn up these helpful versions of the title.

To find a copy of the novel you have selected, do a title search in the library catalog.

To find books about your author, do a subject search for their last name. This will give results of literary criticism and biographies.
What is literary criticism? Literary criticism is writing designed to interpret and evaluate literary works. Criticism may include analysis of a work’s structure and style, interpretation of its themes, judgment of its relative worth by comparison with other works, examination of the relation between the author’s life to his or her works, and the historical and cultural context of the work’s setting. Literary criticism is performed by scholars and students, and usually does not appear in popular books or magazines. Book reviews, on the other hand, often appear in mainstream media, yet they yield little analysis useful to English students.

Example of literary criticism:

“The presence of Father Christmas in the land of Narnia has long been a source of puzzlement and consternation for critics and admirers of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe and has resulted in a variety of conjectures as to his appropriateness and significance in the story. Unlike the character of Aslan, whose role is generally interpreted one way, Father Christmas remains an enigma. Some insist that Father Christmas is a jarring incongruity in this fairy tale world of nymphs, fauns, and talking animals. Others, who are made uncomfortable by his presence yet hesitate to dismiss him entirely, try to explain him away as a literary device. “

- From a critical essay by Timothy Durham

Example of a book review:

“On their way, they hear that "Aslan is on the move." Aslan is a lion who is the true ruler of Narnia. Everyone is happy to hear this, and, as if to confirm their hopes, they run into Father Christmas which means that Christmas is coming and the witch's power is weakening.”

- From the website www.ruinedendings.com
Step Two: Literary Criticism in Library Books

Now try to find some literary criticism about your novel. If you find some books from the library catalog, record their titles, call numbers, and locations here:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book Title</th>
<th>Call Number</th>
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Using Databases to Find Literary Criticism

You have access to a large collection of reference materials containing literary criticism. We suggest you begin in the “Artemis Literary Sources” database.

http://library.tctc.edu/Literature
Step Three: Literary Criticism in Artemis Literary Sources

Artemis sorts results by type. You will probably use literature criticism from academic journals, but “Topics & Overviews” can be helpful when identifying literary elements in the novel.

Possible Literary Element

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literature Criticism</th>
<th>Biographies</th>
<th>Topic &amp; Work</th>
<th>Overviews</th>
<th>Reviews &amp; News</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>1</td>
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The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, 1950 by Donald E. Glover


[review date 1981] In the following review, Glover presents a critical overview of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, praising the novel, but noting that the appearance of the mundane Father Christmas in the text has

From Literature Resource Center

After reading, you may need to limit your results to focus more closely on possible paper topics. Many essays in this list discuss the character of Father Christmas.

Here’s how to limit your search for more specific critical essays:

Now the list is composed only of items that contain the limiting term, in this case “Father Christmas”.

http://library.tctc.edu

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Analyze</th>
<th>Topic Finder</th>
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<th>Limit Search by</th>
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<td>father christmas</td>
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<th>Content Types</th>
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<tr>
<td>Literature Criticism</td>
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TriCounty Technical College

PENDLETON 646-1750 | ANDERSON 260-6720 | EASLEY 220-8899
Step Four: Finding Criticism in Other Databases

While library books and the Artemis database may have just what you need for your research paper, it is likely that now you will want to branch out into other literature databases.

From the library home page, click the Quick Link “Databases A-Z”. You can change the type of subject from “All Databases” to “Literature & Literary Criticism” to access additional collections of critical essays.

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<th>Keywords or Title of Article</th>
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Step Five: Ask Questions

At this point, you might have questions for your instructor or a librarian. Make a note of them here.

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________

Please Contact us if you need help:

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