

Scared?



Frustrated?



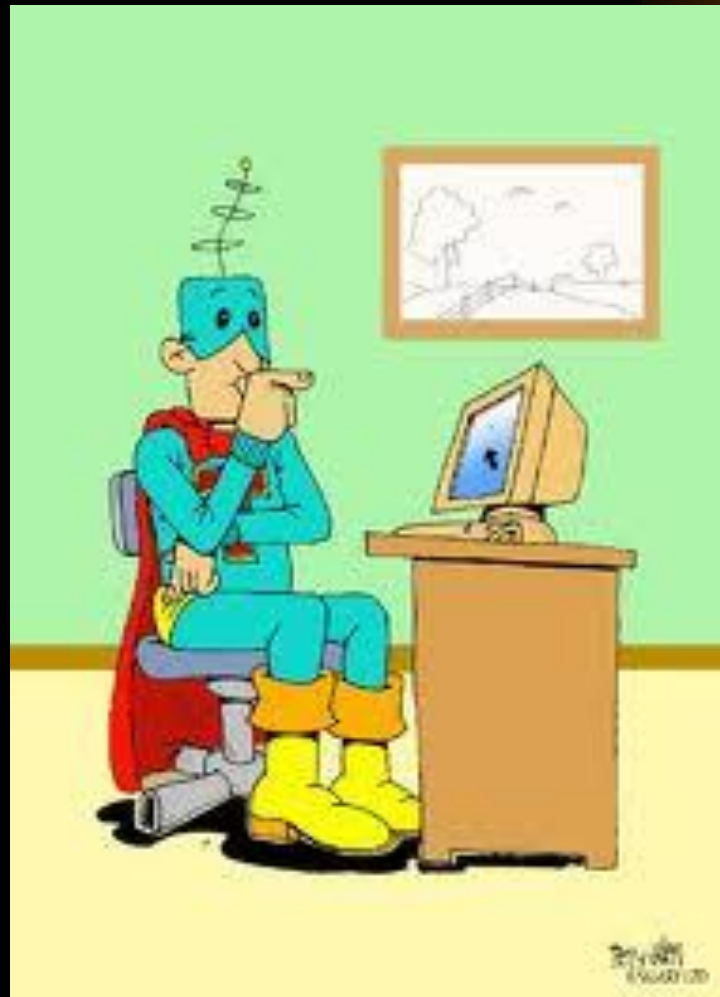
Don't Know What to do Next?

“So what are you writing today?”



“I couldn't really think of anything, so I am drawing some Martians attacking Indianapolis.”

Tap into Your Super Powers!!



Have a Little Faith in Yourself!



“I’ve got a cape. I think I can make it.”

“Granted it’s not much of a superpower. But the flies seem to like it.”



You Can Do It!!!

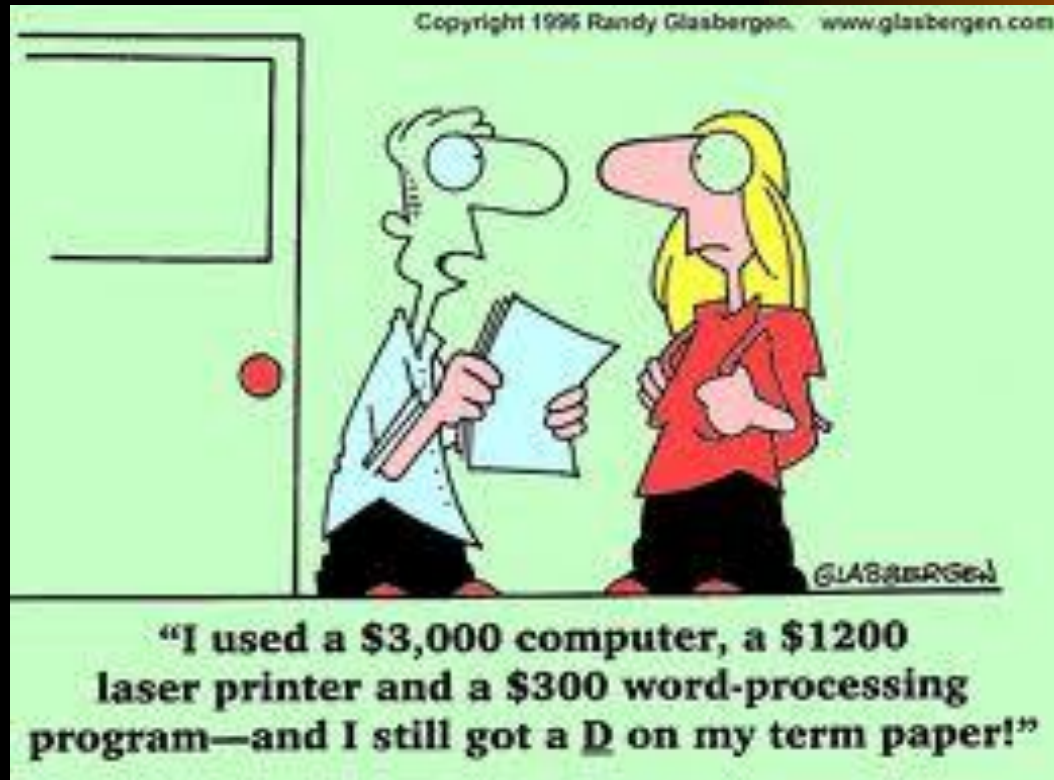




Writing the Literary Analysis:

And Meeting Your Graduation Requirement

It's All About You!



"I used a \$3000 computer, a \$1200 laser printer and \$300 word-processing program – and I still got a D on my term paper!"

What is Literary Analysis?



- It's literary
- It's an analysis
- It's--
- An Argument!
- It may also involve research on and analysis of secondary sources

“Jimmy says you’re a pooppyhead. Do you have a rebuttal?”



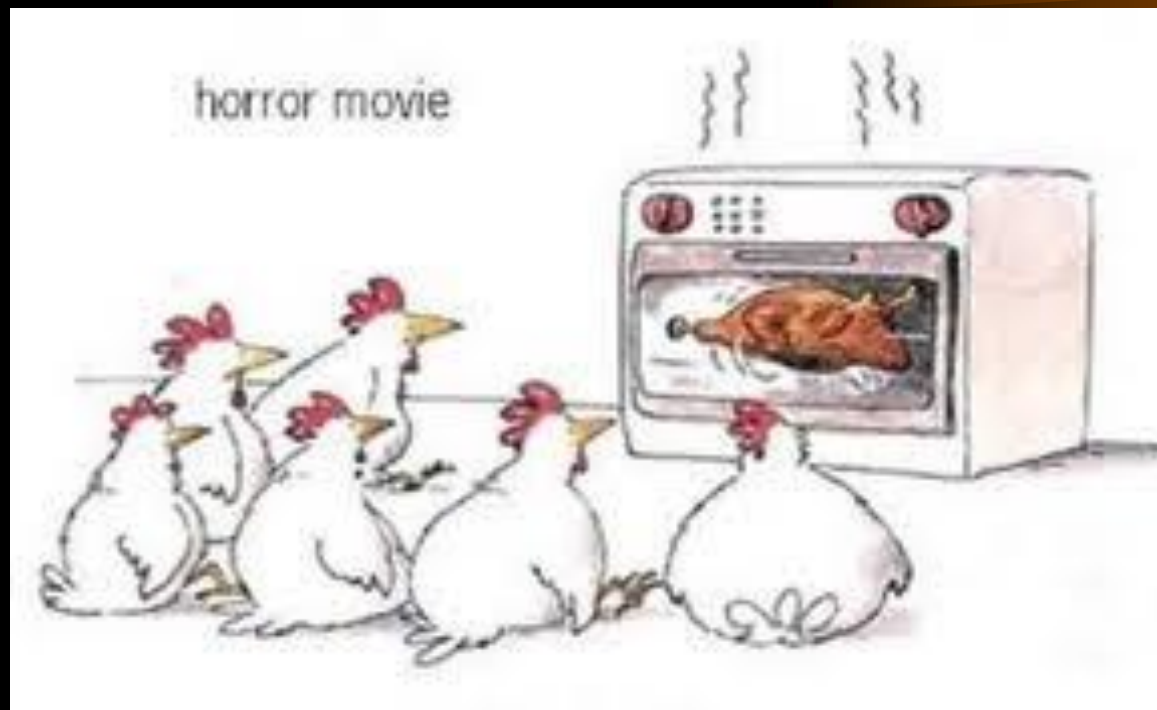


How Is It “Literary”?



- Usually, a literary analysis will involve a discussion of a text *as writing*, thus the term literary, which means “having to do with letters”
- This will involve the use of certain concepts that are very specifically associated with literature

Like a Review of a Movie...



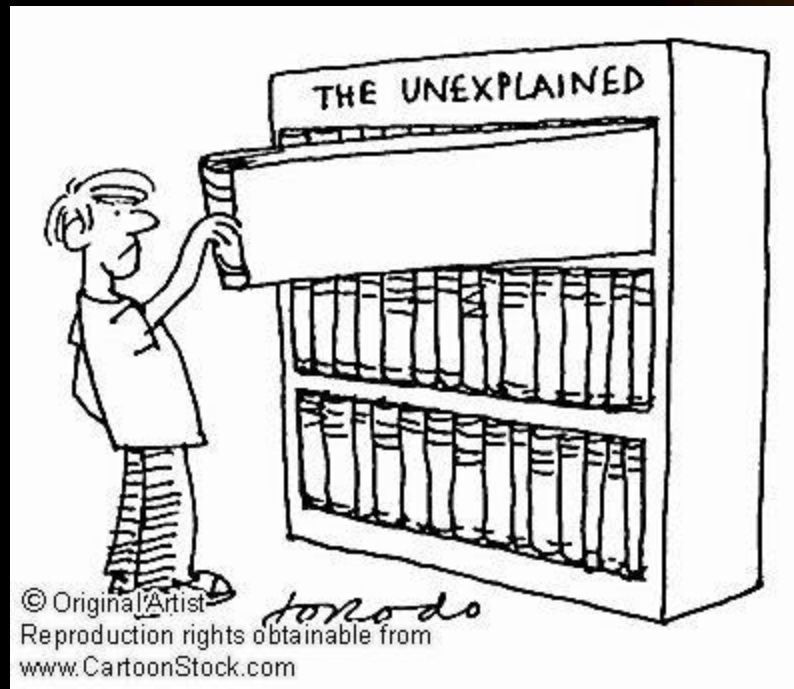
Horror Movie

Restaurant...



“Just because I am eating alone doesn’t mean you should suggest the “loser” special...But I’ll take it.”

Or a Book.



The Unexplained

In Other Words:



- A Literary Analysis is an evaluation of a piece of literature.... just like you would evaluate a meal at a restaurant, a new CD, or a movie... but it uses published critics to support your ideas.

With a lot of you thrown in as well!



“Yes, that was very loud, but I said I wanted to hear your HEART!”

Therefore...



- You need to **read** your selected text.
- You need to note any recurring **themes or points of interest**.
- You need to **develop your own opinions** about the work.
- You need to **design a thesis statement** that explains what specific characteristics about the piece of literature you are going to discuss.
- You need to **find and quote** other professional, published critics who have also read this piece of literature, evaluated it, and agree with your assessment.

“When you say you expect excellent work, do you mean from me?”



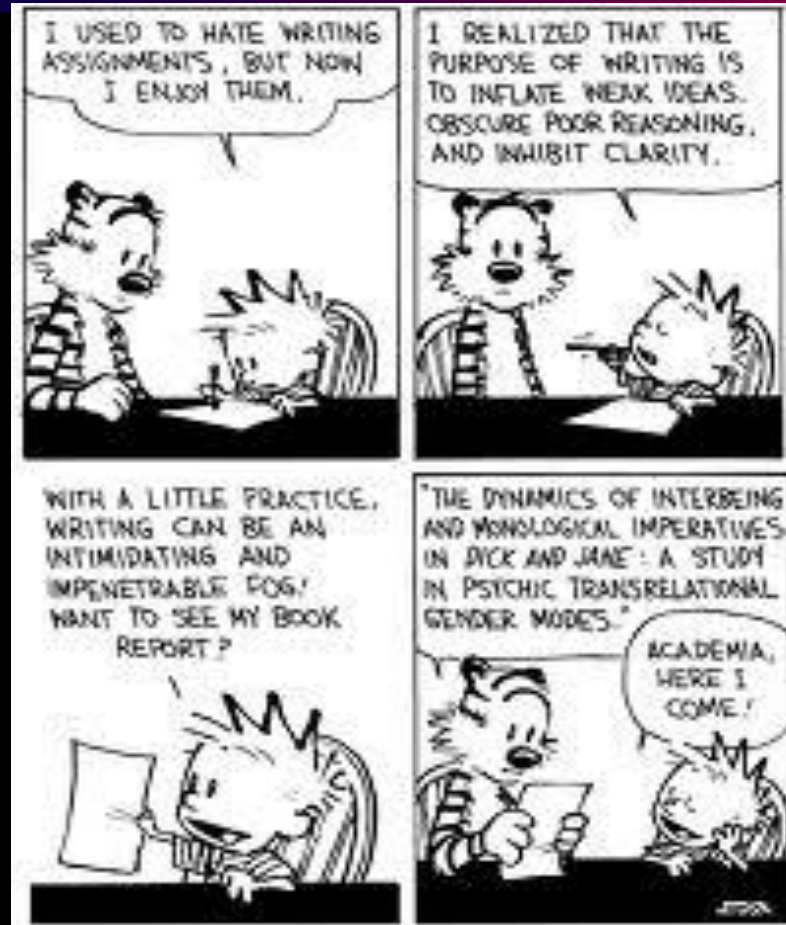
Important Literary Concepts

A.K.A. Stuff You Will Write About

- *The Basics*
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Narration/point of view
 - Characterization
 - Symbol
 - Metaphor
 - Genre
 - Irony/ambiguity
- *Other key concepts*
 - Historical context
 - Social, political, economic contexts
 - Ideology
 - Multiple voices
 - Various critical orientations
 - Literary theory

Use Sophisticated Language!!

“I used to hate writing assignments, but now I enjoy them.”



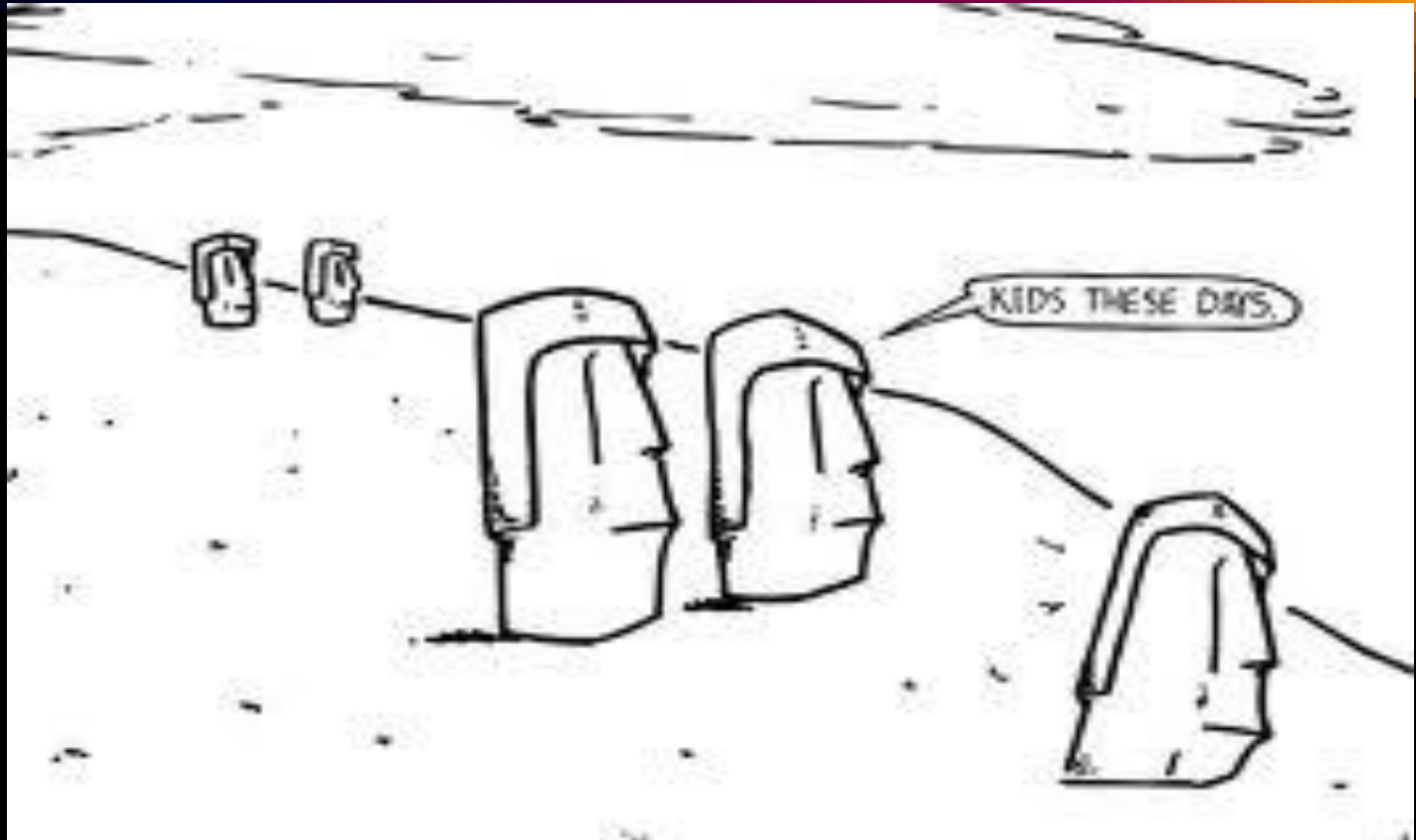
“With a little practice, writing can be intimidating and impenetrable fog! Want to see my book report?”

“I realized that the purpose of writing is to inflate weak ideas, obscure poor reasoning, and inhibit clarity.”

“The Dynamics of Interbeing and Monological Imperatives in *Dick and Jane*: A Study in Psychic Transrelational Gender Modes.”

“Academia, here I come!”

Develop Your Own Point of View!



Kids these days.

How Can I Learn More?



- There are various handbooks of literary terms available in most libraries.
- There are numerous introductions to literary criticism and theory that are widely available.
- Example: *A Handbook to Literature*.
Harmon/Holman

Explore the Library



“It’s a library, honey— kind of an early version of the world wide web.”

Watch the Movie for Tips and a Different Perspective (not in place of the book)



What is an Analysis?



- An analysis of a literary work may discuss
 - How the various components of an individual work relate to one another
 - How two separate literary works deal with similar concepts or forms
 - How concepts and forms in literary works relate to larger aesthetic, political, social, economic, or religious contexts

What Makes Your Book Worthy of Being Called a “Classic”?

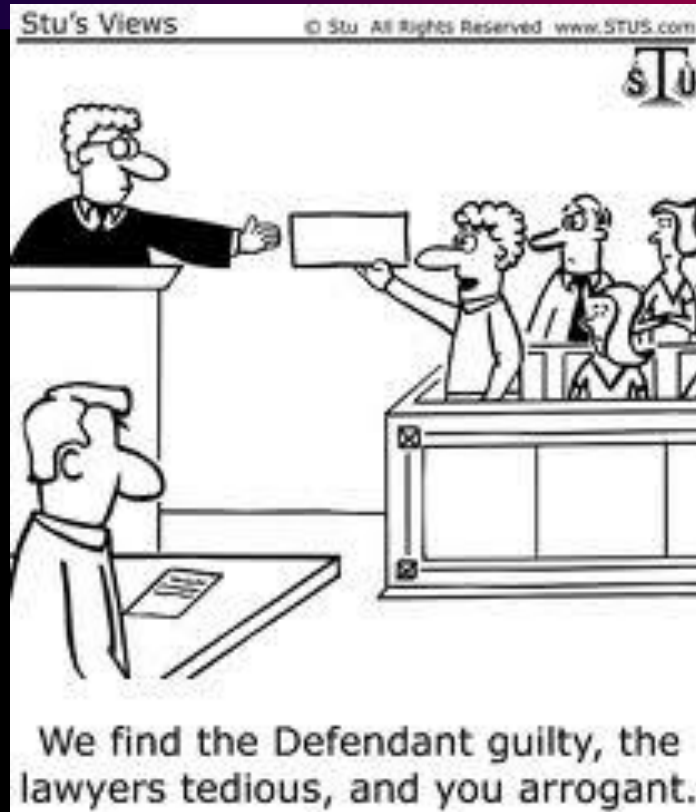
(How is it unique?)



How is a literary analysis an argument?

- When writing a literary analysis, you will focus on specific attribute(s) of the text(s).
- When discussing these attributes, you will want to make sure that you are making a specific, arguable point (thesis) about these attributes.
- You will defend this point with reasons and evidence drawn from the text. (Much like a lawyer!)

You are the judge and jury!



“We find the Defendant guilty, the lawyers tedious, and you arrogant.”

Which is the best thesis statement?



- *Moby-Dick* is about the problem of evil.
- *Moby-Dick* is boring and pointless.
- *Moby-Dick* is about a big, white whale.
- The use of “whiteness” in *Moby-Dick* illustrates the uncertainty about the meaning of life that Ishmael expresses throughout the novel.

How do I support a thesis statement?



- Examples from the text:
 - Direct quotations
 - Summaries of scenes
 - Paraphrase
- Other critics' opinions
- Historical and social context
- Always remember to read carefully and highlight useful passages and quotes!

“It doesn’t matter that your thesis is on extra sensory perception, you can’t cite mindreading in your references.”



Sources



- A literary analysis is comprised of a primary source and secondary sources.
- The primary source is **ALWAYS** your literary selection.



What is a Secondary Source?



- A book or article that discusses the text you are discussing
- A book or article that discusses a theory related to the argument you are making
- A book or article that discusses the social and historical context of the text you are discussing

“We have encyclopedias...the original Facebook!”



The Librarians are There to Help You!!



“I should email the librarian. It would be barbaric to walk down the hall to the reference desk.”

How Do I Find Secondary Sources?




- MLA International Bibliography
- Dictionary of Literary Biography
- Discipline-specific sources
 - Example: America: History and Life for American literature
- Internet (IPL)
- Other search engines
- A bibliography that is part of your text

Soon You Will Have More Than You Need!



BUT..... Your Sources Must Be Valid...



- 
- Wikipedia is not allowed...but it can lead you to good sources.
 - For a source to be valid, it must have an author's name (first and last), have a webmaster, or be a nationally recognized publication with an editor.

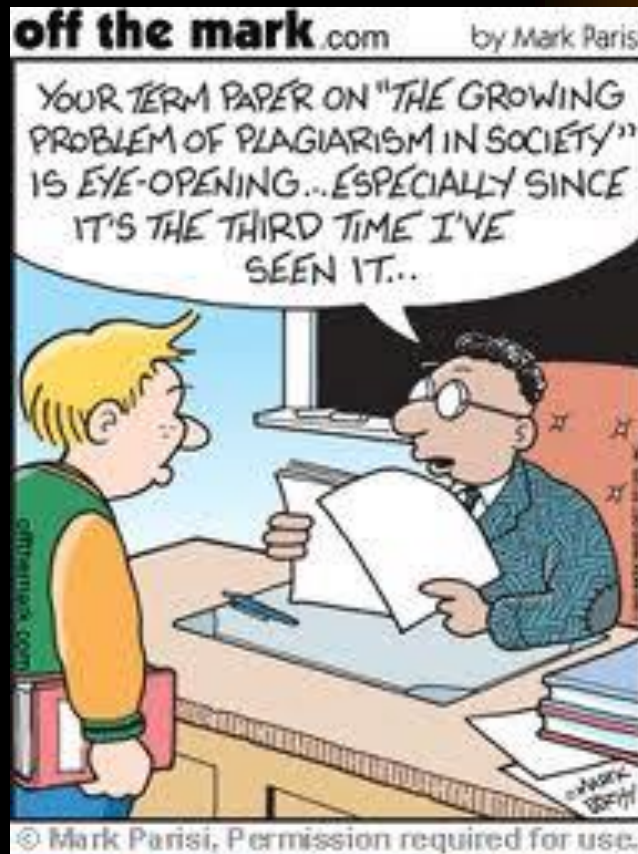
Integrating Secondary Sources

- When you use secondary sources, be sure to show how they relate to your thesis
- Don't overuse any one secondary source, or for that matter, secondary sources in general
- Remember that this is your paper, your argument—the secondary sources are just helping you out
- If the source does not identify the author or editor ...Do Not Use It!
- Never, never, never plagiarize!

Plagiarism (Even Accidental) = Automatic Failure for the Course



Your term paper on “The Growing Problem of Plagiarism in Society” is eye-opening...especially since it’s the third time I’ve seen it...”



“‘C-minus?’ – Do you know how long it took me to find and download this term paper?”



“Not a bad term paper, except that I don’t think Chaucer ever wrote ‘Ye Traveling Salesman’s Tale.’”



Your Literary Analysis Requirements



- Cover/Title Page
- Outline
- 50 Note Cards
- 5 Source Cards
- Bibliography/Citation Page
- Typed paper 4-6 pages in length.
- Sealed Envelope

And Yes, I Do Read Each and Every Paper!




"I call it, 'Research Paper Lite.' It contains a third fewer facts, but you'd never know it."

Overview of Literary Analysis



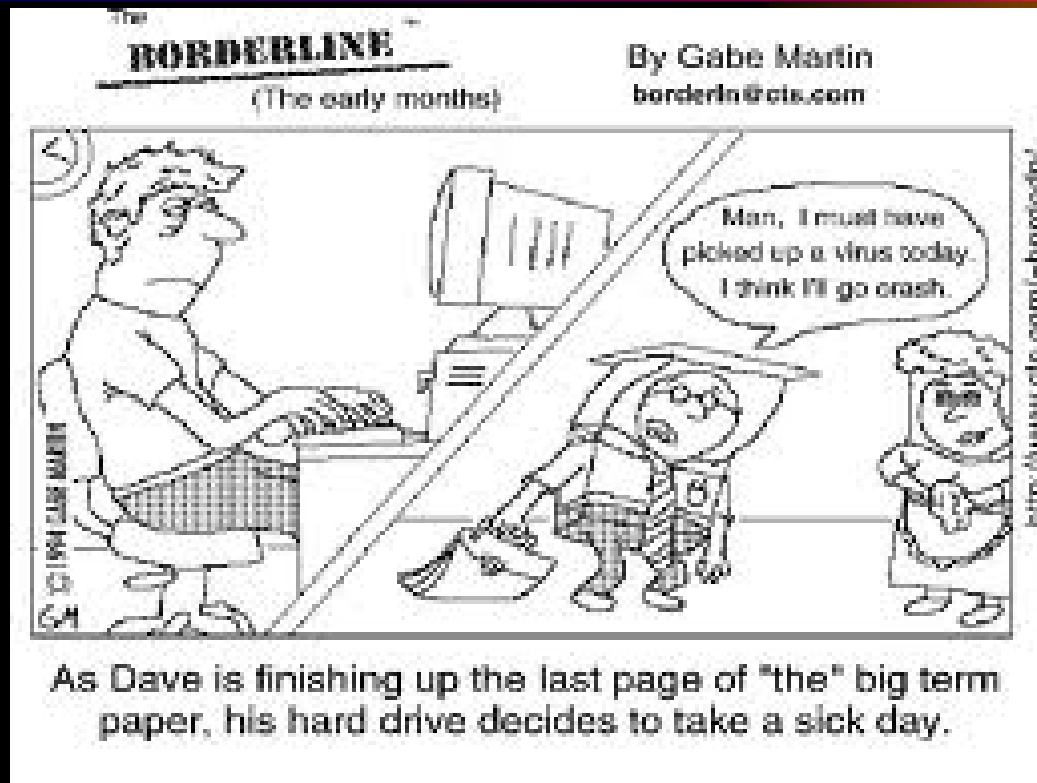
- When writing a literary analysis:
 - Be familiar with literary terms
 - Analyze specific items
 - Make an argument
 - Make appropriate use of secondary sources
 - Consult instructors and tutors for help when needed

When Should I Start Researching?



- As soon as you know your literary selection, you should begin gathering information.
- The ISU library is an excellent source for research materials.
- Please check the website for additional information.

Please Use a Flash drive and Make Numerous Copies.



“As Dave is finishing up the last page of “the” big term paper, his hard drive decides to take a sick day.”

Before You Know It.....

