

# Literary Criticism

\*\* To help you brainstorm writing for your ISU

There are several ways you can criticize a piece of literature

They can be divided into many different categories...below are just a few...

**Impressionistic:** Emphasizes how the work of art affects the critic (you)

**Historical:** Examines the work against its historical surroundings and the facts of its author's life and time

**Formal:** Examines the work in terms of the characteristics of the type or genre to which it belongs

**Analytical:** Attempts to get at the nature of the work as an object in itself through the detailed analysis of its parts and their organization

**Moral:** Evaluates the work in relation to human life

**Mythic:** Explores the nature and significance of the archetypes and archetypal patterns within the work

**Phenomenological:** Makes an existential (existence over essence) analysis of the worlds created in the consciousness by the language of art