

## Literary Criticism Resources at the WVC Libraries

Find critical essays on poems, novels, short stories, plays and other literary works. General tips:

- You may want to print this page, or open the links in a new window (right click on the link).
- For biographical information about authors, or for information about places and events addressed in literary works, use [CREDO Reference](#) or [eLibrary](#), WVC's online reference collections.
- Keep your author and title searches simple ("Poe" and "Raven"), and double check your spelling.
- Strange but true: to find critical essays about an author, search that author as a **subject**, not as the author.
- PLEASE be patient - some of these links are slow!
- Start all searches by following the links in the lefthand column.

### CORE SOURCES

[Poetry and Short Story Reference Center](#) WVC's largest literary resource. Contains articles, essays, videos and other references, covering authors, specific works, genres and movements.

1. Click on **advanced** search.
2. In the first search box, enter either the author's name or a the title of a work.
3. Select the "Literary Criticism" under Document type.
4. Add other options and click "search".

For a broad search put authors name in the Basic Search box and click search.

### [Barron's Booknotes](#)

100 substantial, well-documented reports on classic literary titles, including information on the author, plot, characters and sample tests.

Note - this is a small collection, but the content is very good. If you don't find an article on the work you're researching using either of the recommended methods, move on to another resource.

Try BOTH of these methods:

To find whole essays on a single work:

- Click on the letter which corresponds to the first letter of the first word of the title of the work. Example: to find "Moby Dick," click on the letter "M". Note: check under "T" for titles which begin with "The" such as "The Merchant of Venice."

To find any discussion of a work:

1. At Barron's Booknotes. . .
2. Click on "Search within this publication"
3. Enter words from the title and/or the author's name and click "advanced search".

### [Salem Press Literature Resources](#)

Browse or search articles from 10 reference books from Salem Press.

All of these materials fall into the category of literary criticism. Enter a specific term in the "find" box, or click the "browse" tab to find articles based either on their genre or geographic location.

## ARTICLES IN MAGAZINES AND JOURNALS

### [Proquest Research Library](#)

A large general academic database. Searches can be limited to find critical essays on particular literary works.

1. Click on Advanced search
2. In the first search box, enter the term "literary criticism" and change the search type to "subject"
3. In the next search box, enter the author's name - last name first - and change the search type to "person"
4. Click "search" and review the results.
5. To narrow your results to a particular work
  1. Click "refine search"
  2. Use an additional search box to add keywords from the title of a work, and leave the search type as "citation and abstract"
  3. Click "search"
6. To limit your search to full text and peer-reviewed materials:
  1. While viewing the results, select the "scholarly journals" tab to limit to peer-reviewed materials
  2. While viewing the results, click "show only full text"

### [Academic OneFile](#)

A large general academic database. Searches can be limited to find critical essays on particular literary works.

1. Click on Advanced search
2. In the first search box, enter the term "critical essay" and change the search type to "document type"
3. In the next search box, enter the author's name - last name first - and change the search type to "person name"
4. Click "search" and review the results.
5. To narrow your results to a particular work
  1. In the "Refine Results" box (left side of screen) enter a key word or two from the title of the literary work you're researching (e.g. "Hamlet")
  2. Click "go"
6. To limit your search to full text and peer-reviewed materials:
  1. Under "Refine Results" (left side of screen)
    1. Check the "full text" box
    2. Check the "peer reviewed" box

## BOOKS AND ESSAYS IN BOOKS

### [Books in WVC Libraries](#)

The link to the left does the first broad search for you, so the instructions below will help you narrow the results to your author and literary work.

- Follow the link to the left
- In a blank search box, enter the author's name (e.g. "Poe") along with the existing word, criticism
- You may either click "search" OR add the title of the work:
  - In the results, choose "Available in the Library" from the box on the left to see physical books available to you through WVC.

### [Ebrary](#)

Our largest collection of electronic books.

Don't forget to sign-in AGAIN (prove you are not a robot) once in Ebrary - upper right corner.

1. Change the "search in" box to "subject"
2. Enter the word "criticism" and click the plus sign (+) to add a row
3. Change the next "search in" box to "subject"
4. Enter the author's name and click "search ebrary"
5. To narrow your results to a particular work:
  1. At the top of the results screen, click the plus sign (+) to add a row
  2. Leave the "search in" box as "text and key fields," and enter key words from the title in the search box
  3. Click "search ebrary"

Note: once you are in an ebrary book you can search for a particular work.

### [Ebooks on EBSCOhost](#)

A core collection of classic academic and literary works, supplemented by a small collection of current books; these are e-books.

1. In the advanced search, set the search type to "subject" and enter the term "criticism" in the first search box.
2. Set the search type for the second row to "subject" and enter the author's name in the next search box.
3. Click "search"

### [Humanities E-Books](#)

Classic and highly reviewed academic books on topics across literature, the arts, history and other areas of the humanities.

This collection emphasizes classics of the ancient world, European works through the Renaissance, and early American literature. The following link presents the titles from this collection most likely to contain literary criticism. Browse the results, or choose "refine" to add an author or key words from a title.

[Humanities E-Book titles which contain "literature" and "criticism" as subjects](#)

## CRITICAL ESSAYS FROM GALE PUBLICATIONS

### [Gale Essays](#)

This collection of documents covers specific works using a "study guide" format. Includes analysis, criticism and orientation to the work.

Documents may be requested in person at the Omak or Wenatchee WVC libraries. To make your request via e-mail please use the following links:

[WVC Students](#) | [Omak Students](#)

## COMBINED SEARCHES

The [everything](#) search

This search combines e-book, reference, book and journal searches.

How to use this source:

The link to the left does the first broad search for you, so the instructions below will help you narrow the results to your author and literary work.

- Follow the link to the left
- Put in authors name in the search box click search

### Refine My Results

- Look to the panel on the left side of page
- Find Subject click the more link
- Find "Literary Criticism" and check the box
- Repeat as many times as necessary to focus your results.

You may also limit your results: by peer reviewed journals; by available in library; by full text only; by database; by date; and by journal all in that left panel

## RECOMMENDED WEB RESOURCES

These websites have been evaluated by WVC faculty and/or librarians.

<http://www.shmoop.com>

Shmoop's critical essays are written by scholars in Ph.D. and Master programs from top universities. They are easy to read, informative, very well organized and have fresh, up to date perspectives on the works they review.

Here is a direct link to the collection of [poetry study guides](#); here's a direct link to the [literature study guides](#).