**Contemporary American Literature-Reviews and Literary Criticism**

**Step One (Tues 2/21):** Find 2-5 Literary Criticisms on your novel and print them. For some of the newer novels, you might have to look for reviews. The range of articles needed is based on the length and depth of the criticisms and reviews you find.

**Literary Criticism:** Literary criticism is the evaluation, analysis, description, or interpretation of literary works. It is usually in the form of a critical essay, but in-depth book reviews can sometimes be considered literary criticism. Criticism may examine a particular literary work, or may look at an author's writings as a whole. One website you might try for help: <http://www.ipl.org/div/pf/entry/48496>

**Definition of Critique:** Critique is a literary technique that means to critically evaluate a piece of literary work, a political or philosophical theory in detail. A critique could be a critical essay, an article evaluating a literary piece, or a review. It may be just like a summary that identifies the central issue, raises questions, takes notice of theoretical and experimental approaches, and reviews the significance of the results. Apart from that, its purpose is to highlight both the shortcomings as well as strengths of a literary piece or an art work. Moreover, critically evaluation or assessment requires sufficient knowledge about the subject matter. This site will give you some short examples: <https://literarydevices.net/critique/>

**Step Two (Wed 2/22):** Read and annotate your articles in class. Prepare 2-3 discussion questions with short answers and evidence to use in your small groups for discussion on Thursday or Friday.

**Step Three (Thurs 2/23 or Fri 2/24):** Final small group analytical discussion on your novel and its reviews/criticisms. Discussions will be 12-15 minutes.

**Step Four (Thurs 2/23 or Fri 2/24):** While you are not in discussion, you will spend your time writing your own criticism/critique of your novel. This should analyze the literary devices your author uses and their effectiveness as well as your review of the novel as a whole. It should provide evidence to support your opinions as well. You may handwrite this since you will be in the classroom while I am listening to the discussions. This is meant to be YOUR opinion and analysis. If you take a comment or idea from another source, it needs to be credited and properly cited. This can be turned in at the end of the class period Friday. If you are working diligently and need the weekend to finish your work, please ask me towards the end of class on Friday.