

New Criticism SUMMARY

Compose a paragraph-length summary of New Criticism and submit it this week. Read and study the assigned pages from *Texts and Contexts* this week and the **Summary materials** located in last week's agenda items before you attempt this assignment.

Your task is to outline what this set of theoretical principals is and does. Do not advance your own opinion of the theory, or make an argument about its validity: this is NOT a piece of persuasive writing. You are only to REPORT what you have learned about the theory - explain what it is and how it works, that's all. Keep your language academic: 3rd person, present tense, no sentence errors. Imagine an ignorant reader, pretend that I do not know what New Criticism is or does: define and explain each of the terms listed below that are covered in the **vocabulary** section at the end of the chapter, and summarize the major concepts covered in the first section, the **introductory explanation** of the theory at the beginning of the chapter. You needn't deal directly with the other sections in the chapter for this summary: just focus on the first section that actually lays out the outlines of this theoretical approach.

A final version of this summary paragraph will become the second paragraph of your eventual essay at the culmination of this unit. This assignment is meant to test your comfort level with the theoretical principals in *Texts and Contexts*, and it is designed to give you practice articulating its major concepts and terms. If you are able to explain and summarize how the theory works here, you will be able to apply it more easily in your own analysis for your formal essay due at the end of the unit.

Terms (from pp 60-61) which you must be sure to include in your definition and summary work are: ***speaker, tone, point of view, irony.***

This summary paragraph must be a **minimum of 10 and a maximum of 15 sentences in length** and should not exceed one paragraph. It is worth 5 points and is **due this Thursday** (a day before my birthday!).