

# The *Animal Farm* Critical Reader Group Project

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## Literary Criticism

The art or practice of judging or commenting on the qualities and character of literary works.

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We will be creating an *Animal Farm* Critical Reader (a digital zine on Lucidpress) that explores various critical perspectives. Each group (your table) will be assigned a single article; each group will be responsible for creating two pages in the reader. Eventually, each student will have a copy of the reader. Each student will need to know the contents of the material, so it is up to each group to provide all students with an informative, professional product.



## Guidelines/Expectations

1. As a group, read and dissect your article. What are the main ideas of the text? Your copy of the article will be later submitted and should feature extensive annotations and comments. Chances are there may be areas which are confusing - note these areas and figure them out together.
2. As a group, choose your layout template. Your group is responsible for two pages in the reader.
3. Your page should feature:
  - A minimum 10-15 sentence objective summary of the text. This must be in your own words (no quotes); no opinions here, only a summary. Be sure to include the TAGD (title; author; genre; date) of the text. Assume your reader has not read the article. What are the main ideas/points of the article? Feel free to use the rhetorical precis template as a guideline.
  - Attractive text and graphics. Remember - you are creating a zine. Aesthetics matter.
  - A Says/Means/Matters chart exploring a minimum of three essential quotes from the text. Be sure to follow the guidelines provided in the template you have. Be creative in how you present this chart.
  - All text and graphics should be readable using the 100% view scale on Lucidpress.
  - An MLA citation of the text.
  - Be creative, be creative, be creative.
4. A Peer Review Gallery Walk will be part of the process. Here, all groups will review each section to allow for finishing touches. Praise and advice will be offered. This will give you an opportunity to learn from others and to better your product.
5. Make sure your pages are created to the best of your abilities. Is your section academic

and informative? Is it unique? If the pages are not up to par for publishing, they will need to be revised until they are ready. No credit until your section is ready to publish.

6. Extra Credit: We are looking for a zine cover and a table of contents page that both exude the epitome of awesomeness. Does your group have what it takes? Design a zine cover and/or table of contents page (on Lucidpress) for the class to use. The winners (and their groups) will achieve both extra credit points and a level of awesomeness that won't soon wear off.
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### Article Selections

1. "Why I Write" - George Orwell
2. "Why Socialists Don't Believe in Fun" - George Orwell
3. "Orwell Preaches Individual Responsibility as a Weapon Against Dictatorship" - Katharine Byrne
4. "Orwell's *Animal Farm* and *1984*" - Anthony Kearney
5. "*Animal Farm* is Trivial" - Keith Alldritt
6. "Freud's Notion of the Uncanny in *Animal Farm*" - Polly Sapakie
7. "*Animal Farm* Exposes Orwell's Sexism" - Daphne Patai
8. "Orwell Subverted: The CIA and the Filming of *Animal Farm*" - Janine Utell
9. "*Animal Farm*: Sixty Years On" - Robert Pearce