

# Critical Thinking in Action

## Individual Literary Activity Project

### **Objective:**

Scholars and teachers who study literature write in a variety of ways, utilizing numerous approaches and multiple genres. This project asks students to choose their own approach to writing about literature, purposefully and thoughtfully selecting or creating a genre that will demonstrate their understanding of the unique ways that scholars and teachers think about literary texts.

**Grading:** Final projects will be graded based on the extent to which they demonstrate critical thinking and literary activity and articulate this quality within the reflection. Successful projects will offer a robust and thoughtful example of critical thinking, and more importantly, clearly show your understanding of it in your planning, production and reflection. Please also see the additional grading expectations sheet for details on assessment. Projects must include ALL parts to be considered for a final grade.

**Topic Selection:** Topics should explore an idea or issue important in adaptation using two more adapted texts. Select from the list of broad topics and choose an individual angle from which to approach it. Decide exactly what about the topic you want to study, and be as specific as possible. Please write a short description of your topic to submit on **March 8**.

**Conference Sign Up:** I recommend that you sign up for an individual conference to discuss your topic and proposed project. Missing a conference results in a final score deduction. Conferences are available **March 18-April 22**.

### **Your Project Includes FOUR Parts: Collectively Worth 35% of your final grade**

**Observation/Conclusion Sheet:** The purpose of this handout is to develop and explain your insight into the topic, articulating what it is your project is meant to offer about the texts you examine. **Due April 5**

**Project Proposal & Annotated Bibliography:** Use the handout provided to create a project proposal describing your plans, including your use of research and primary texts. Then, collect three new secondary sources (not fiction) for your project, and include a citation and annotation (summarize and connect your source to your project in about 2 paragraphs). Additionally, choose two or more sources described on handouts collected from colleagues and briefly describe how they will fit into your project. **Due Date: April 12**



**Project Production:** Produce the project, utilizing your knowledge of critical thinking to put this way of thinking into written practice in the genre you designed. **Due Date: April 24**

**Rationale/Reflection:** Finally, write a short (2-3 page) rationale or reflection about the critical thinking happening in your creation, what genres you have produced and how you are engaging in literary activity. What kind of analysis or interpretation have you done? How have you demonstrated it or put it forth in a uniquely literary way? How do you use research in this regard? **Due Date: April 24**

## A Few Possible Broad Topics (Not an Exclusive List)- Your Project Should Offer a Narrow/Specific Angle on a Broad Topic

Choose **several adaptations that have something in common** to investigate, such as a common:

**Author** (who has had several books adapted into other forms)

**Adaptor** (a director, illustrator, actor etc who has produced adaptations)

**Story** (many versions of same original story or book)

**Medium** (picture books, movies, graphic novels, theme parks, short stories, poetry, miniseries, tv, etc)

**Age Group or Protagonist** (books made into movies with teen girls, animal characters, boys with powers, ninja fighting kids, age 9-12)

**Genre** (horror, science fiction, romance, western, dystopia, etc)

**Text** (one original text that has been adapted into many mediums)

Choose a **particular issue** having to do with adaptation:

- Spoofs or parody
- Fan fiction
- Fandemonium
- Fidelity or Essence
- Genre Bending
- Artifacts/toys/theme parks

Use several adaptations (considering both original and subsequent texts) to explore an **ideology**, such as:

- Gender
- Race/ethnicity
- Children/childhood
- American Identity
- Disability
- War
- Immigration
- Good v. Evil
- Villains and Heroes
- Dreams, Aspirations

Base your project on some aspect of a frequently adapted **genre/troupe** such as:

- Fairy Tales
- Superheroes
- Mythology
- Historical Fiction
- "Classic" Fiction

Do a detailed, **exhaustive study of a single adapted text** with relation to a particular issue in adaptation studies or social/political topic (an extended comparative analysis)

**These are only a few suggestions—any topic you can imagine is possible!**