COMPARATIVE LITERARY ANALYSIS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project aims to cultivate students' literary analysis skills by guiding them through the process of identifying major themes in literature, conducting a comparative analysis of these themes across two significant works, and establishing connections between these themes and their own lives. By engaging in this project, students will develop critical thinking skills necessary for disciplines that demand close reading, while also fostering empathy skills.

This project uses the resource *Gale Literature Resource Center*. While this project focuses on two short stories, "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka, this project could certainly be adapted to use other texts that are studied in a literature course. The chosen short stories ask students to delve into the themes of isolation, psychological transformation, and societal expectations.

This project is organized so students will have an opportunity to formatively practice their close-reading skills, potentially receive instructor feedback on the first close-reading submission, and grapple with some of the big topics prior to their submission of their second close reading and final comparative analysis essay.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Developing analytical skills by strengthening students' ability to critically analyze and interpret literary texts, and identify key themes, motifs, and literary devices used by the authors.

- Enhancing critical thinking skills by encouraging students to think analytically and independently, challenging their own assumptions and exploring various interpretations of the literary works under analysis.

- Promoting cultural and contextual understanding by encouraging students to consider the cultural, historical, and social contexts in which the literary works were produced, recognizing the influence of these factors on the themes, characters, and overall meaning of the texts.

BRIDGE-IN:

This project would be best introduced after you have taught the skills of close reading and have had at least one discussion about a literary work to ensure that students possess a clear understanding of the anticipated level of analysis that aligns with your expectations.

TEACHING CONTENT:

- Review the concepts of close reading using this editable PowerPoint
- Demonstrate how to navigate *Literature Resource Center*
  - Literature Resource Center LibGuide
  - 11-minute tutorial
  - Set up a complimentary virtual class training with your Gale trainer by emailing gale.academicoutreach@cengage.com
- Provide students with their assignment sheet. Feel free to edit the assignment sheet to suit the needs of your course and include deadlines, examples, expectations, and add details of submission.
- Assign the first text for close-reading annotations of "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Encourage students to explore the topic overview of Hysteria in Nineteenth Century Literature
- Ensure comprehension using this in-class quiz of the first text. This is only meant to hold students accountable for the reading prior to an in-class discussion. It covers the basic plot. There are two options: an open-ended quiz or a multiple-choice quiz.
- Have students work through these discussion questions during an in-class discussion, either in small groups or as a whole class
- Review the expectations and skills of a comparative literary analysis using this editable PowerPoint
- Assign the second text for close-reading annotations of "The Metamorphosis" by Franz Kafka
- Assign the comparative literary analysis essay

FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Student's submission of:
- First close-reading annotations (either via photo, in-class submission, or online)
- In-class discussion notes

SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:

Student's submission of:
- Comprehension quiz
  - Second close-reading annotations
  - Comparative analysis essay