**Critical Article Reflections**

1. Search in the *literature database* to find an article/critical essay about the poem. On my website, go to “Library Links,” and select “Madison’s Library.” Scroll down to the Resources section, and you’ll find the Gale Literature Resource Center. If asked for a password, it is elvis. You may also use books in our library to find an article.
2. Once you have selected an article, determine what the author is arguing; i.e., identify the author’s thesis. Consider why the author may have felt the need to argue this particular point. Also, you will want to identify the main ideas in the article; you can usually find these in the topic sentences of the article’s paragraphs. I would suggest “annotating” the article as you read—underlining, marking, making notes, etc. on the article itself. You may also simply take thorough notes of the article as you read.
3. If you come across words or concepts that are unfamiliar to you, look them up so you can understand the article more fully.
4. In the first part of your critical article reflection, identify the title of the article, its author, and the subject of the article. (In the article “Ephraim Cabot: O'Neill's Spontaneous Poet,” Cate discusses Eugene O’Neill’s play *Desire Under the Elms*.)
5. Next, summarize the article--explain what the article says overall in your own words. If you have read and annotated the article and you understand what it is saying, you might try to write your summary without actually looking at the article. From your memory, what was the article about? By not looking at the article as you summarize, you are less likely to plagiarize. After a short summary of the article’s main points, you should move into your response/thoughts about the article.
6. Select various points from the article that you could respond to or expand on. Some examples of what you might discuss include these questions: What do you think is the author’s strongest point? What is something you understand more fully now that you did not notice or understand before you read the article? Does the article include positives and negatives (i.e., does the author discuss aspects of the poem that he/she sees as a strength and aspects of the poem that he/she criticizes or sees as a weakness or drawback)? Why does the author feel this way? Are there any points that you would disagree with and why?
7. Conclude with your final thoughts about the significance of the article or the quality of the article overall. That is, how was this article useful for understanding the poem more fully.
8. Your article reflection should be formatted according to MLA guidelines. You should have an MLA heading on page 1, headers, a Works Cited page, and internal citations as necessary. Double space. You can find the MLA citation by clicking the Cite button at the top of the page when reading the article (or it usually can be found at the bottom of the article).
9. The article reflection should be two full pages (plus your Works Cited page).