

## Jennifer Kious, Durant High School, Hillsborough County



*“(My) students are eager to discuss important issues facing teens in 2019, and they are motivated to further research and then vocalize these matters to the greater community. It has been incredibly rewarding to witness my journalism students develop passions for various issues based on the news pieces they select in the Times. In fact, some students have even used this process to overcome challenges in their personal lives by reading similar experiences of others in the Times and then sharing their own stories with the school and community.”*

Jennifer was chosen as a 2019 Honorable Mention for using the newspaper in innovative ways as part of her daily instruction in her English, ESOL and journalism classes.

Jennifer’s student journalists spend the first ten minutes of each class period reading the *Tampa Bay Times*. They then come together in a roundtable format to discuss which headlines they feel should be covered for Durant’s student news website.

Students conduct additional research and rewrite the news stories for an audience of teens ages 14-19 by the end of the quarter. Students are required to post at least five fresh stories to the website each quarter. Jennifer notes that “This process has created a sense of urgency in our student newsroom – students are eager to discuss important

issues facing teens in 2019, and they are motivated to further research and then vocalize these matters to the greater community.”

Jennifer also uses the *Times* regularly in her ESOL and English 4 Honors classes. In particular, she encourages her students to connect what they learn in class to the outside world by having them use literary theories to better understand what other people are going through.

Students read a news story from the *Tampa Bay Times* and then apply a literary theory to each character in the story in order to understand and identify with others. Jennifer credits this exercise with helping her students grow into deeper thinkers and be able to commiserate with others despite differences in opinion.

Unit 3  
Mrs. Kiious  
Jan. 9, 2019

### **Applying What We Know to the Real World**

Before we start learning new critical perspectives, let's review the lenses we have learned so far by making real-world connections to these lenses. For each of the lenses listed below:

1. Define the lens. Definitions can be found in the glossaries of your SpringBoard books.
2. Find one current news story in the *Tampa Bay Times* FOR EACH LENS where you can empathize with the people affected in the stories by using a specific lens. For example, a story about the current government shut down might be understood in multiple lenses. However, a story about the government shut down's effect on people involved with transportation at national airports might best apply to Marxist Criticism. Cite each story (title and source). Summarize each story (3-5 sentences per story). Explain how each story can relate to the critical lens you chose (2-3 sentences per story).
3. You may turn this assignment in via hard copy to the drop-off bin, or submit it electronically through an Edsby message. Make sure your name and class period are on the assignment. Worth 10 points (2 points per lens).

#### **Reader Response Criticism**

#### **Archetypal Criticism**

#### **Cultural Criticism**

#### **Feminist Criticism**

#### **Marxist Criticism**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_ Feb. 2019

**Are You Aware? News Assignment**

A big part of becoming aware of what is going on in your community, state, country and world is learning to *expand your perceptions* of what is important and what is true. It is also important to learn how to *empathize* with others by reading in the news about what other people are going through. For today's assignment, connect the news with the essential questions we studied for the quarter. Read several articles that interest you and then write a short response (3-5 sentences) to each of the following questions.

1. Summarize the news articles you read. What happened? Who was involved? When did it happen? Where did it happen? Why is it important? Where did you find the article(s)?
2. How did reading these articles expand your ideas of what may be important in the lives of other people right now? How do you think the people in the articles feel, and how are their lives different because of the experiences they are going through?
3. Do you think any of the articles you read connect to Lord of the Flies, Pygmalion, or Othello in any way? If so, how? If not, why not?
4. Do you think any of the articles you read connect with the essential question, "*what does it mean to be a stranger in the village?*" Meaning, are there people in the news stories you read who may be "outsiders" or not part of the status quo? How do you think they see the world and why do you think their perception is shaped this way?
5. Do you think any of the articles you read connect with the essential question, "*what role does literature play in the study of recurring social issues?*" Explain.