4-2 Lesson Plan

**HEADING**

Zach Peters, English 3, 11th Grade, Period 2: 9:17am-10:04am and Period 3: 10:07am-10:54am

Critical Lens Article Examination

**OVERVIEW/ RATIONALE** This unit focuses on using the Marxist and feminist critical lenses to examine the novel *The Great Gatsby.* We have spent several days learning about each lens. Today students will have a chance to further their understanding of one or both of these lenses by reading an assortment of articles that employ the lenses to analyze other works and/or our society.

**ENDURING UNDERSTANDINGS**

The Marxist critical lens focuses on the socioeconomic circumstances featured within a book as well as the circumstances in which the book was written.

The feminist critical lens examines our traditionally paternal society as the backdrop for most of classic American literature.

To analyze literature using the gendered lens, one examines the power dynamics related to genders as a key influence upon the story’s meaning.

**GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

SWBAT to read and take notes on articles IOT gain a more diverse understanding of the uses and implications of Marxist and feminist criticism.

**STANDARDS**

CC.1.3.11–12.K Read and comprehend literary fiction on grade level, reading independently and proficiently.

CC.1.2.11–12.F Evaluate how words and phrases shape meaning and tone in texts.

CC.1.4.1112.F  Demonstrate a grade appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

CC.1.5.11–12.A

Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on gradelevel topics, texts, and issues, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**MATERIALS** Novel: *The Great Gatsby*, various Marxist and feminist articles including: <http://banote.blogspot.com/2010/12/marxist-reading-of-great-gatsby.html>, <http://leninwaswatchinggod.weebly.com/annotated-passages.html>, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/464063?seq=2>, <http://feministdisney.tumblr.com/post/9279916826/movie-and-show-critiques>

**PROCEDURES** Do Now (5min.) What questions do you still have about Marxist and/or feminist criticism? Students will write and then discuss.

Looking ahead (5min.) Teacher will outline what the rest of the unit will look like, including what students can expect in their final assessment (an in-class essay utilizing a specific lens to discuss *The Great Gatsby)*. Teacher will then explain today’s activity as a means for further preparing students for this assessment.

Articles (30min.) Articles will be placed in stations around the room relating to their subject matter. There will be four articles (several copies of each) relating to each lens. Students will spend some time reading these articles and taking notes (teacher will check that students are taking notes as a participation grade).

Wrap-up discussion (5-10min.) Teacher will ask students for reactions, questions, etc. regarding the things they have read and will give other students the opportunity to respond to their peers.

**ACCOMODATIONS:** Articles vary in length, subject matter, and reading level.

**ASSESSMENT/EVALUATION**: students will be informally assessed based on quality and accuracy of notes