**English Literature (H): Create and Apply Your Own Lens**

With the learning of various lenses and how to apply those to literary works, it seems important to give you experience in the full process of literary criticism. The best way to do this is to generate your own lenses and your own rationale for applying this lens.

Think about a manner for approaching literature that is (to the best of your knowledge) entirely original. This can be a serious method for critiquing a work of literary art or it may play with the notion of criticism and be rather tongue-in-cheek about it. In other words, be creative!

When you have thought about it and decided on one, proceed to do the assignment below.

**Type a summation of your lens and critique process, label and detail ALL of the following sections:**

1. **Rationale:** What is the rationale behind this approach? Why does the critical world NEED this new lens?
2. **Governing Principles:** What are the main ideas that are associated with this lens? Explain the essence of the lens and what it entails.
3. **Questions for Inquiry:** What questions would a critic of your lens ask of the work being critiqued? In other words, offer (like my handout) examples of how someone using your approach could apply the approach.
4. **Application:** Now, apply your lens to Dickens’ *Bleak House* in a thoroughly rendered essay-style paragraph: Topic Sentence with Developing Claim (x3), Evidence (x3), and Analysis (x3). Generally speaking, this type of paragraph has about eight sentences of so (just to give you an approximation, but you know this already from previous writing experiences at Lansing Catholic).

NOTE: To remind you, your application may be over the novel as a whole, a character or group of characters (e.g. a family), a theme, a section, a scene, etc…

NOTE, TOO: Be specific in your application. While you do not necessarily need to provide direct quotations or page numbers, you do need to make direct references to things within the text that support your claims.