

# Literature Review in MLA Format

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all sides

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Ellory 1

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Student name,  
instructor, course, date

HST 214: Cartography and Culture

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Unreliable Narration In Modernist Fiction

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Introduction  
paragraph

Modernist fiction frequently relies on narrators whose perceptions distort events, memory, and meaning. Literary scholars examine unreliable narration as a response to fractured identity and shifting moral frameworks in early twentieth-century literature.

Critics argue that unreliable narrators force readers to participate actively in interpretation. Booth explains that narrative gaps and contradictions invite skepticism rather than passive acceptance of the narrator's account (158). Later scholarship expands this idea, linking narrative unreliability to psychological realism and historical dislocation.

Other studies focus on reader response. Phelan notes that uncertainty reshapes ethical judgment by preventing stable conclusions about character intent and truth (92). These interpretations suggest that unreliability functions as a core modernist technique rather than a stylistic flaw.

Body  
paragraphs  
with author-  
page  
citations

The literature consistently frames unreliable narration as central to modernist experimentation. Scholars continue to debate how this technique reshapes authority, truth, and reader responsibility within the novel.

Double-spaced  
throughout

Works Cited

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hanging indent,  
alphabetical order

Booth, Wayne C. *The Rhetoric of Fiction*. U of Chicago P, 1983.

Phelan, James. *Living to Tell About It*. Cornell UP, 2005.