

## Anna VanSeveren- Reader Response Outline

Running thesis: Kate Chopin's *The Awakening* was ahead of its time when first published in 1899, and using Jauss' Reception Theory, one can understand why the novel came back to life bigger than ever in the 1960s.

Running title: (quote): Reception Theory Applied to Chopin's *The Awakening*

Body 1:

- Discuss Jauss' idea of Reception Theory
- Mention horizon of expectation
- The relationship between a work of fiction and the receiving audience is incredibly important
- Quote from "Toward an Aesthetic of Reception"

Body 2:

- The reception of *The Awakening* in 1899 was less than favorable
- Quote from negative reviews
- Use Reception Theory to explain why the novel's ideas were too strong for the time
  - Men being in charge of publishing/editing
  - Not wanting to accept women's issues

Body 3:

- Revival of *The Awakening* in the 1960s
- The novel was much more accepted during this time period because of the resurgence of feminism and the sexual revolution
- Quote from Toth and Seyersted

Body 4:

- Importance of reading this novel in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- My experience of reading it and how I find connections between then and now
- Value of bringing lost literature back