At the end of the month, I plan to show a PG-13 movie called In the Time of the Butterflies (and I encourage you to watch it at home!). The movie is based on a novel by Julia Alvarez. The students are currently reading portions of her memoir including My English, Nombres, Liberty, Exile, and Daughter of Invention. They encompass her immigration to the United States when she was ten years old due to the violent political unrest of her country. The movie “is a fictionalized account of the lives of the [Mirabal sisters](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mirabal_sisters), [Dominican](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominican_Republic) revolutionary activists, who opposed the dictatorship of [Rafael Trujillo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rafael_Trujillo) and were assassinated on November 25, 1960.”\*

After viewing the film, students have a writing assignment in which they follow the format for a movie critique as well as a “quick-write journal” that addresses the essential questions involving flashbacks, structure, and author’s purpose.

Throughout the unit, students will analyze how historical-cultural context of political struggle influences the emotional impact on the characters. They also identify author’s craft through the use of idioms, perspective, and connotation. The unit includes a parallel memoir from India, a poem, and several nonfiction news articles. Thank you.

\* <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/In_the_Time_of_the_Butterflies_(movie)>