

Synthesis Exercise #1

ENGL 102.1

Writing and Research

This Synthesis Exercise is designed to show that you understand the ideas behind synthesis and how to compose typical synthesis arguments using outside sources.

Since the information being used here is all from the WARAC and you are only writing individual paragraphs instead of an entire essay, there is no Works Cited or Reference page necessary, but you **WILL** need to use proper in-text citation form – for example (Leonard 241) or (Leonard, 2008). The instructions for each writing situation will indicate whether you should use APA or MLA in-text citation form.

You have been assigned what specific information to use and what thesis to argue. **However, students are STRONGLY encouraged to read through the entire essays used for paragraphs 1 and 2.** Trying to synthesize information when you don't completely understand the overall thesis or the original source can make things much more difficult than they need to be.

Remember that a typical synthesis essay paragraph/argument will include three main points somewhere in the paragraph/argument:

- a thesis,
- supporting evidence from outside sources, and
- an explanation/analysis of how and why the evidence really does support the thesis.

1. You have the following information from page 305 of George Lewis's article "The Mall as Refuge":
"Physically, malls are geared for high turnover. Chairs and benches in rest areas and food courts are unpadded in the seat – designed to be uncomfortable if sat in too long. The architecture of the mall itself, behind the colorful neon store logos and displays, is anonymous, uniform, predictable, and plain. The corridors are wide and filled with hurrying customers. Security guards discourage loiterers and help to move foot traffic along."

You have the following information from page 270 of James J. Farrell's essay "Shopping for American Culture" about the cultural meaning of the mall:

"The mall makes sense in the flow of our whole lives, as we compare and contrast it to what we experience every day. The mall, for example, tells us immediately that it's not home and it's not work. It's an architecture of pleasure, not of comfort or efficiency. Shopping is what academics would call an 'intertextual experience,' an activity that only makes sense if we know how to read many different cultural 'texts': ads, stores, mannequins, clothes, logos, race, class, gender, and sexuality."

Write a paragraph arguing that malls are designed to be uncomfortable environments. **Use something from BOTH sources in your synthesis paragraph.** (Hint: most people would claim that Farrell has the overall idea and Lewis has the specific examples). You can quote or paraphrase from the provided quotes, but if you do, **do not just quote the whole thing** – selectively quote **ONLY** the part that supports your point. Remember that whether you paraphrase or quote, you also have to explain/analyze the information in terms of what it means. Don't just assume that the reader will respond to the information the way you expect them to without your explanation of what you think it proves or means. (remember to **NOT** use first person or reference the essay itself – don't say, "thus we see that UFO's are real" – just say "UFOs are real instead).

The **In-text citations** for answer #1 should be done in **MLA** style.

2. You have the following information from page 288 of "The Mall as Prison," by David Guterson:

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"Getting lost, feeling lost, being lost – these states of mind are intentional features of the mall's psychological terrain. There are, one notices, no clocks or windows, nothing to distract the shopper's psyche from the alternate reality the mall conjures."

You also have the following example from page 283 of Richard Francaviglia's "The Mall as Disneyland":
"...[Main Street USA] has in fact become the model of the typical American shopping mall, where the visitor or shopper leaves the car in the parking lot and enters an environment that is climactically controlled, and where the real world is left outside."

Write a paragraph explaining the connection between mall design and being distanced from the outside world. (Hint: you probably want to present Francaviglia as the claim and Guterson as the specific example that helps support the claim). You should **paraphrase** the information if at all possible, and **you can't quote both** (writers should limit their quotations to one per paragraph if at all possible). Be sure to explain what the example shows or proves about the thesis – don't assume that the reader sees the connections that you see.

The **in-text citations** for answer #2 should be done in **APA** style.

3. Take any two pieces of information from any two **DIFFERENT** sources that you plan to use for your research paper and write a synthesis paragraph/argument using both sources to argue a single point.

The in-text citations for this paragraph/argument can be in **either** MLA or APA, as long as you choose only one and use it consistently. I do NOT need to see the Works Cited or References page for the sources, just the in-text citations, since you are only showing me the one paragraph/argument, not the whole essay.

Submit these paragraphs through the Learning Center, by email attachment, or by uploading through the Online Learning System. All three must be submitted to receive a grade.

You will be evaluated on how well you:

- Synthesize the source(s) into your own analysis
- Use your own analysis/explanation in addition to the source(s)
- Properly in-text cite the information that you use from the source(s)
- Use proper grammar and sentence structure
- Show Ethos/Logos/Pathos where appropriate