

Synthesis Exercise #2

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.

For this assignment, **write TWO or THREE pages of your research paper arguments** using the ideas and information that you have found in your research paper research so far this semester.

THIS IS NOT YOUR RESEARCH PAPER – THIS IS AN EXERCISE IN PRACTICING SYNTHESIS USING YOUR RESEARCH PAPER SOURCES

- You **do not** have to write the first two or three pages of the paper
- You **do not** have to write consecutive pages – they can be from totally different places in the paper
- You **DO** have to show synthesis – combining multiple sources together in the same paragraph
- You **DO** have to have an argument or point that you are making – not just a bunch of repeated facts
- You **DO** have to use properly formatted in-text citations
- You **DO** have to have a Works Cited/References page for the sources that you cite

Follow the synthesis writing process presented so far in class:

- Read through the sources, noticing which arguments or ideas strike you as strong or weak
- Determine where you stand on one (or more) of the issues raised in the articles
- Determine an overall thesis/point for this issue
- Determine what proof or evidence is in your sources that supports that argument
- Organize your paper's outline/organization plan around these arguments
- Find the specific statistics/data/information from the sources that support those arguments
- Write your initial draft

Do **NOT** organize this exercise as a series of summaries of your sources. If you do so, it will be returned for revision. **This exercise MUST show synthesis of ideas from multiple sources supporting the thesis in the paragraphs.**

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.

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
- Properly cite the sources on the Works Cited/References page

As a college-level paper, the paper should be 2-3 pages, double spaced, with a 10 or 12 point typewriter style font, and 1 inch margins. There must be a Works Cited/References page and in-text citations.