

Writing Project #2 | Explanatory Synthesis Essay (10%)

Description:

An explanatory synthesis **explains** a topic and uses sources to help clearly and accurately explain it. You are trying to educate your readers on a topic they may not know much about. You will need to figure out how the various articles relate to each other about a topic and then present that information to your readers in an orderly, logical fashion. The aim is to help readers get a complete understanding of the topic. You will be using the skills you have practiced all semester to complete this essay (summarizing, paraphrasing, analyzing, synthesizing, and integrating sources).

The purpose of this assignment is to allow students to demonstrate ability to:

- Write coherent short essays, including creating a strong thesis, developing logical analysis and synthesis of their own ideas and others', and organizing paragraphs with strong topic sentences and transitions;
- Effectively write various expository genres, including summaries, analysis, synthesis, and argument;
- Select appropriate and effective evidence to support their point of view;
- Quote and/or paraphrase all sources accurately and correctly cite them using Modern Language Association (MLA) format;
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of the writing process by effectively prewriting, drafting, revising, and proofreading for errors;
- Demonstrate improved comprehension and use of vocabulary;
- Demonstrate a heightened awareness of their most common grammar errors and apply an improved understanding of the rules of grammar in order to recognize and correct them.

Basic Structure:

Your essay should be 2-3 pages long and be double-spaced, with one inch margins on all sides and your name at the top of the first page. Your essay should include an introduction, a conclusion, and well-developed body paragraphs. There should be a clear thesis statement in the introduction and clear topic sentences for each paragraph that relate to the thesis of the essay.

Process:

1. After the class brainstorm sessions, choose a theme and thesis statement for your essay.
2. Make a list of subtopics or claims that you will explain/show to your readers.
3. For each subtopic, identify 2 pieces of textual evidence that illustrate that claim. This can be quotations, paraphrases, or summaries from the texts.
4. Complete an outline showing the thesis, the subtopics, and what textual evidence you will use to support it.
5. In your writing, remember good synthesis paragraph format and include elaboration of the topic and summation of the ideas.
6. Provide an MLA works cited page at the end of the essay and use MLA format for in-text citations.

Follow this timeline to complete the writing process for this essay:

Steps	Due Date
1. Outline	Tuesday, November 22 nd
2. Draft 1	Tuesday, November 29 th
3. Draft 2	Tuesday, December 1 st
4. Final Draft	Thursday, December 8 th

In this assignment, you'll be graded on:

- ✓ **Unity:** Your ability to write an essay with unity. In other words, your thesis statement should be developed throughout the essay with all supporting paragraphs directly connected to the thesis.
- ✓ **Synthesis & Support:** Your ability to find meaningful connections between ideas and adequately support your ideas with specific details, well-explained examples, and relevant research/evidence using correct citation format.
- ✓ **Organization:** Your ability to coherently arrange and connect all the ideas in your essay. This includes clear topic sentences and transition signals between ideas.