

## Synthesis Essay Outline

### Outline

A synthesis essay should be organized so that others can understand the sources and evaluate your comprehension of them and their presentation of specific data, themes, etc.  
The following format works well:

**INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph)** - Contains a one-sentence statement that sums up the focus of your synthesis, and introduces the texts to be synthesized:

- (i) Gives the title of each source (following the citation guidelines of whatever style sheet you are using);
- (ii) Provides the name of each author;
- (ii) Sometimes also provides pertinent background information about the authors, about the texts to be summarized, or about the general topic from which the texts are drawn.

Introduce the topic:
Introduce the texts to be synthesized and provide pertinent background information about the authors, texts to be summarized, and/or general topics.
Thesis Statement - Should contain the three reasons for your assertion on the topic.

**BODY PARAGRAPHS** - These paragraphs should be organized by theme, point, similarity, or aspect of the topic. Your organization will be determined by the assignment or by the patterns you see in the material you are synthesizing. The organization is the most critical part of a synthesis, so try out more than one format.

### Paragraph #1

<b>Topic Sentence:</b> Begin with a sentence or phrase that informs readers of the topic of the paragraph.

**Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:** A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.

**Commentary:** An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)

**Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:** A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.

**Commentary:** An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)

**Concluding Statement:** shows similarities or differences between the two sources used in the paragraph

## BODY PARAGRAPH #2

**Topic Sentence:** Begin with a sentence or phrase that informs readers of the topic of the paragraph. Be sure to **Transition** from paragraph to paragraph by linking the topic from the **first paragraph** to the topic of the **second paragraph**:

**Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:** A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.

**Commentary:** An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)

**Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:** A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.

<b>Commentary:</b> An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)
<b>Concluding Statement:</b> shows similarities or differences between the two sources used in the paragraph

### BODY PARAGRAPH #3

<b>Topic Sentence:</b> Begin with a sentence or phrase that informs readers of the topic of the paragraph. Be sure to <b>Transition</b> from paragraph to paragraph by linking the topic from the <b>second paragraph</b> to the topic of the <b>third paragraph</b> :
<b>Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:</b> A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.
<b>Commentary:</b> An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)
<b>Textual Evidence/Concrete Detail:</b> A quote or example to illustrate the argument. Clearly indicate which source the quote comes from using lead-in phrases and in-text citations.
<b>Commentary:</b> An explanation of the previous quote (2-3 sentences)
<b>Concluding Statement:</b> shows similarities or differences between the two sources used in the paragraph

---

CONCLUSION

<b>Restatement of thesis:</b>
<b>Summary of the most significant themes you have found and the ways they connect to the overall topic (3 sentences):</b>
<b>Broad Statement of Impact or Larger Significance:</b> Application to Society—What did the author learn about human nature, society, culture, or history? You may also want to suggest further research or comment on things that it was not possible for you to discuss in the paper. (1-2 sentences)