

## Exploratory Synthesis Assignment

**Length:** five pages, minimum, and a works cited page (Six pages total, minimum)

**Number of sources:** six, minimum

**Total Points:** 250 points

**Rough draft due:** June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Final draft due:** June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

### Assignment

Write a coherent and unified essay in which you use at least six sources to answer a question at issue for you, your instructor, and your classmates. **You must devise and decide on a topic based on the readings and discussion of our work this year.** Approach the selection of your topic as identifying a common theme from throughout the school year. You must use two of the shorter readings from this year, two of the books from this year, and two sources you have found separately. From there, you will explore that theme using those six sources. Try not to start out with a single perspective on the theme; **your task is to explore the different perspectives or interpretations of the issue.** Be sure that all sources are relevant and credible. The synthesis of each source must represent an accurate and comprehensive application of details from each source. Format your paper according to MLA guidelines.

### Organization

In the opening paragraph of your essay, introduce the theme you will discuss and important context. You may state the theme as a question you hope to answer and explain its significance (that is, the reason the question needs to be answered). The rest of your essay will be an exploration or a discussion of multiple perspectives on the issue. In the body of your paper, introduce and discuss the sources you consulted, comparing and contrasting their contributions intertextually. Each paragraph should link logically with the paragraphs coming before and after it. Because this type of essay is question-driven and not thesis-driven, you can conclude in a number of ways: (1) answer the question, (2) answer the question but note that your position may change, (3) state that you are unable to answer the question set forth in the introduction and explain why, (4) state that you are able to answer the question only in part and explain why, (5) state that you understand the complexities of the issue but need to gather more information before you take a firm stand, or (6) state that your question has changed and explain why.

### Works Cited

The last page of your essay should list all the sources you cited in your paper.

### Plagiarism

The essay must reflect your own work. Turning in a paper that you did not write or copying directly from sources will result in a failing grade for the paper and perhaps for the course as well.

### Assignment Requirements

Pre-Writing	Writing	Re-Writing
<input type="checkbox"/> Brainstorm	<input type="checkbox"/> Rough Draft(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> Research Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> Formal Draft	<input type="checkbox"/> Peer Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> Outline	<i>Email a formal draft to me by 10:30 am on the due date</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Questions
		<input type="checkbox"/> Revision

**Grading Criteria:** Your paper will be graded according to the following criteria. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade for the paper and perhaps for the course as well.

Criteria	Points
<p><b>INTRODUCTION</b></p> <p>___ The source claim is summarized responsibly and purposefully.</p> <p>___ The opening paragraph introduces a question at issue.</p> <p>___ Your question is significant enough to warrant its discussion.</p>	<b>/50</b>
<p><b>SYNTHESIS</b></p> <p>___ The essay demonstrates an accurate and comprehensive understanding of your sources (at least six).</p> <p>___ Source information is presented so that members of the audience unfamiliar with the source can understand it.</p> <p>___ Sources are summarized responsibly.</p> <p>___ Sources are synthesized purposefully; that is, they are not only summarized but also applied, challenged, or qualified.</p> <p>___ The sources are used intertextually (that is, there is a discussion established among the sources).</p> <p>___ The conclusion ties together main points and relates them to the thesis or question. Implications or consequences of the ideas presented are also discussed.</p>	<b>/100</b>
<p><b>COMPLETENESS AND FORMATTING</b></p> <p>___ Source material is cited according to MLA guidelines.</p> <p>___ Works cited entries are provided.</p> <p>___ Submission requirements are met.</p> <p>___ A peer-review has been completed.</p>	<b>/25</b>
<p><b>EDITING AND PROOFREADING</b></p> <p>___ The writing employs words and sentence structures appropriate to the demands of the rhetorical situation.</p> <p>___ The essay is coherent and unified.</p> <p>___ The essay is free of proofreading errors.</p>	<b>/75</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>/250</b>