

SYNTHESIS PAPER

The purpose of a synthesis paper is to connect specific themes or traits from various texts and then organize them according to central or common themes. In short, the readings will stimulate your own thoughts and you will convey your own ideas in essay form.

HERE IS A BRIEF STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Select a sample of information such as prose, lab data, etc. you find interesting.
2. Draw a quick map of the essay and write the main idea in sentence form.
3. Using personal experience, create a logical, structured argument to prove or disprove the main idea.
4. Briefly summarize the proofs the author gives for his statement; then, based on your reliable observations, give additional proof or argument.

Keep in mind that you are the author and have something to say. Some questions you might ask yourself are:

- What is your writer's stance?
- What is your main idea or thesis statement?
- What is your plan of development?
- What are your main divisions?
- What is your evidence or what are your reliable observations?

SOME EXTRA GUIDELINES

1. Develop a workable thesis statement (subject + attitude + plan = thesis).
2. Collect ideas and support from the essay and your experience.
3. Write a rough draft without worrying about grammar, sentences, paragraphs, or transitions. This exercise is just to get the ideas on paper.
4. Reread your draft with your audience in mind. Make revisions when necessary.
5. Revise, revise, and revise!
6. Check punctuation and mechanics.
7. Remember to make your title intriguing enough to make the reader interested.