

Essay 3: Argumentative Synthesis

FYW Program, Dept. of English, University of West Georgia

Category/Grade	A	B	C	D	F	Assessment
Argument/Thesis (30%)	Thesis offers an insightful, original, and intellectually ambitious argument grounded in careful analysis of the topic and texts selected and awareness of the critical conversation. Argument is based on effective research from a variety of sound sources relevant to the critical conversation.	Thesis offers an insightful, original argument grounded in careful analysis of the topic and texts selected and awareness of the critical conversation. Argument is based on effective research from sound sources relevant to the critical conversation.	Thesis engages with the topic and texts selected in their critical context but fails to offer an insightful or original argument. Argument is based on research, but it may be limited or include sources that are overly general or contain bias.	Thesis lacks clarity or misrepresents the topic and texts selected or their context. Argument makes few connections to research and/or that research if bias and/or not credible.	No discernable thesis or argument. No research is present.	
Synthesis/Analysis (20%)	Essay effectively synthesizes source texts, providing specific evidence from the texts to support the argument and its relevance in the conversation.	Essay effectively synthesizes source texts, providing evidence from the texts to support the argument, but remains hesitant in positioning its relevance in joining the conversation.	Essay synthesizes source texts, but analysis is general and evidence may be vague; contributes little to the conversation.	Essay is overly general and lacks critical depth due to inadequate support; fails to join the conversation.	Little to no evidence of analysis and/or synthesis of source texts in the body of the paper.	
Organization & Development (20%)	Provides an effective organizational structure that includes sophisticated introductory and conclusion paragraphs. All body paragraphs include well-developed analysis through strong topic sentences, effective sequencing of ideas, and	Provides an organizational structure that includes an effective introduction and conclusion. Body paragraphs include well-developed analysis with effective topic sentences, sequencing of ideas and transitions, though some development may be needed.	Includes an introduction and conclusion, though some development may be needed. Body paragraphs include analysis, most containing recognizable topic sentences. Sequencing of ideas and transitions may be illogical or	Includes an introduction and conclusion, yet they contain ambiguities or irrelevant information. Body paragraphs include some analysis, but may rely too much on summary, generalization, or personal response; sequencing of ideas are illogical or hard to follow.	The essay lacks an organizational strategy at both paragraph and sentence levels. Body paragraphs primarily rely on summary, generalization or personal response.	

	smooth transitions.		lacking at times.	Ineffective transitions.		
Style, Grammar, & Syntax (20%)	<p>Tone is rhetorically effective, and ideas are clearly articulated using precise word choice and varied sentence structures.</p> <p>Grammar, spelling, and punctuation are conventionally appropriate with very few errors, none of which interferes with coherence.</p>	<p>Tone is rhetorically effective and ideas are clearly articulated using precise word choice and varied sentence structures, though some sentences may include minor phrasing or word choice issues.</p> <p>Contains no distracting patterns of grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors.</p>	<p>The essay has no pervasive pattern of sentence-level incoherence, but tone is inconsistent, sometimes lacking sentence variety and effective word choice.</p> <p>Includes some distracting, but not serious, problems in grammar, spelling and punctuation.</p>	<p>The essay contains patterns of sentence-level incoherence and lacks sentence variety and effective word choice.</p> <p>Includes many distracting errors in grammar, spelling, and punctuation.</p>	<p>Serious sentence-level incoherence, no sentence variety and ineffective word choice.</p> <p>Grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors obstruct meaning.</p>	
Format & Basic Requirements (10%)	Adheres to <i>all</i> assignment requirements regarding MLA formatting, length, and topic.	Adheres to assignment requirements concerning length and topic with very few MLA formatting issues.	Mostly adheres to assignment requirements concerning length and topic with few formatting issues.	Fails to adhere to essay length or topic requirements and includes consistent MLA formatting issues.	Fails to adhere to assignment requirements, the prompt, and/or includes plagiarism.	