

Class: ENGL 1101

Essay Three: Synthesizing Arguments

ASSIGNMENT GUIDELINES:

PURPOSE:

The writer will demonstrate the ability to synthesize multiple (for this assignment, let's focus on TWO) sources (one of these sources, your primary one, MUST be one of the essays from our course anthology, either one we have read thus far or one that interests you) toward the development of an original argument. Specifically, the assignment asks writers to examine various texts and media on related topics, considering how these texts inform and interact with one another in conversation. Identifying a critical conversation, writers will then practice participating meaningfully in such conversations via informed critical response. The purpose of this specific assignment is for you to present your own point of view - supported, of course, by relevant facts, drawn from sources, and presented in a logical manner.

TASK:

- The writer will identify a critical conversation taking place across multiple texts/media.
- The writer will select appropriate sources for synthesis toward a larger claim.
- The writer will demonstrate satisfactory critical reading skills and comprehension of sources.
- The writer will provide detailed, accurate information from sources in the form of effective summary, paraphrase, and quotation.
- The writer will thoroughly and correctly document use of source material, following MLA format and referencing sources in a works cited page and in-text citations.
- The writer will present an argument that offers a critical, engaged reader's analysis of the conversation represented by/in source material.
- The writer will develop and sustain an argument through effective body paragraphs (driven by a clear claim/topic sentence with supporting analysis and discussion of evidence from the texts).
- The writer will present an argument that is entirely original (*no outside research or additional resources used beyond the synthesized course texts*) and participates in an ongoing critical conversation.
- **Introducing the Conversation**
In the introductory paragraph, you will present a brief overview of the critical conversation in which the two texts you've selected (one MUST be *from our anthology*) participate. You should begin by introducing the general topic and then narrow your focus by introducing and summarizing the main arguments of both texts. Finally, conclude your introduction with an *argument* that articulates ONE of the following: (a) what readers gain by using one of your texts as a "lens" through which to "see" the other; or (b) what examining these two texts comparatively shows us that we might not otherwise have seen.
- **Supporting Argument/Body**

Each content paragraph should include three components: (1) *a topic sentence*, (2) *evidence*, and *analysis*. Each topic sentence should make its own argumentative claim that further specifies or demonstrates your reasoning for the overall claim you've made in your thesis statement. Evidence, meanwhile, will take the form of quotations or of paraphrases from the source texts that support or illustrate the claim made in the topic sentence. Your analysis will explain *how* each piece of evidence supports, illustrates, and otherwise proves your argument. No outside research is allowed. This essay should demonstrate your own ability to identify a critical conversation and to join it. Consistently analyze your source texts throughout, avoiding personal response or anecdotes, meta-discursive references to the assignment or your writing process, and heavy summary.

****Note about each content (body) paragraph: each paragraph should have a MINIMUM of TWO illustrations (and consequent interpretations)—remember to tie these illustrations together in a closing sentence (or two) that points back to the argument you made in the topic sentence.**

- **Conclusion**

Re-emphasize and expand upon your own argument. Reflect on why this topic is important beyond the scope of your own essay. Why should your reader care? What is at stake? Reiterate the value of considering your source texts together. In other words, leave your reader with both a sense of the critical conversation reflected in your essay and a way to enter that conversation themselves.

CRITERIA: Here is a list of the following criteria for this assignment:

- The essay should be 3-4 pages in length
- The essay should be typed according to MLA format
- The essay should be submitted in the appropriate assignment folder in CourseDen by the due date listed on the syllabus