

Name: _____

Period: _____

Date: _____

Night: Synthesis Essay

A **synthesis essay** is a scholarly essay supported by a variety of source material which is synthesized to develop a thesis addressing a question of current importance

Prompt: Could something like the Holocaust happen in modern America? If so, how? If not, what will prevent it? What universal qualities of humanity (addressed in the literary resources) allow such things to occur? Use examples and specific details from each source to support your thesis. Cite sources appropriately within the text of the essay. Explain your reasoning clearly and completely. Address and rebut counterclaims.

Organization: This is a multi-part question, so it will require more than a single (claim) sentence to completely answer it; therefore, the organization of your essay will be especially important. Each body paragraph will develop a different aspect of the question and therefore have its own claim statement, but these paragraphs should be integrated to answer the main question. [Suggestion: Use the R.A.C.E. strategy for each body paragraph.]

Audience: a professional reader will evaluate the quality of your first (timed) draft as measured by a rubric; some of your classmates may read/evaluate your argument after it has been revised; your teacher will assign a standards-based grade to the entire process.

Resources

Poem: "The Hangman" by Maurice Ogden (1954) [Video (11 min.): https://archive.org/details/the_hangman_1964]

Autobiography: *Night* by Elie Wiesel (1958)

Fiction: "Brother Leon" (from *The Chocolate War*) by Robert Cormier (1974)

Newspaper: Recounting a Day of Rage, Hate, Violence, and Death by Joe Heim (2017)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/local/charlottesville-timeline/?utm_term=.c37856c2ebd5

Assignment: Writing Lab

Review this article from the Washington Post:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2017/local/charlottesville-timeline/?utm_term=.c37856c2ebd5

Think: Identify themes and ideas common to all the literary resources; consider them in light of current events in America. Decide how you want to answer the question. Generate a thesis statement. Outline your essay.

Write the essay (in approximately one hour).

Save your essay to your OneDrive.

Print one copy (two-sided, so you only use one sheet of paper); staple it to the scoring rubric; turn it in.

Submit the draft to Utah Compose.

Request a peer review and log out.

Homework: Log in to Utah Compose and review at least two (2) of your classmates' essays. Provide *specific* positive feedback and (politely stated) helpful suggestions.

Academic Essay Outline (Argumentative)

What is the question* you have to answer? _____

What is/are the text(s) you have to use? _____

Introduction

Attention Getter/Hook: _____

Background Info: _____

Thesis/Primary Claim: _____

(*Does it answer the question?)

Body

☺ **Claim #1:** _____

Textual Evidence A: _____

Reasoning A: _____

Textual Evidence B: _____

Reasoning B: _____

☺ **Claim #2:** _____

Textual Evidence A: _____

Reasoning A: _____

Textual Evidence B: _____

Reasoning B: _____

☺ **Claim #3:** _____

Textual Evidence A: _____

Reasoning A: _____

Textual Evidence B: _____

Reasoning B: _____

● **Counterclaims/Rebuttals**

Counterclaim #1: _____

Rebuttal #1: _____

Counterclaim #2: _____

Rebuttal #2: _____

Conclusion

Restatement of Thesis: _____

Summaries of Claims: _____

Clincher: _____