

Informative Synthesis Essay Rubric

Criteria	Excellent 90-100%	Good 80-89%	Acceptable 70-79%	Needs Improvement 60-69%	Unacceptable/ Missing 0-50%
Document Format	Document is in correct file type (doc, docx, odt) with proper MLA formatting throughout.	Document is in correct file type with minor MLA formatting errors.	Document is in correct file type with several MLA formatting errors.	Document is in correct file type but lacks basic MLA formatting.	Document is in incorrect file type or completely lacks MLA formatting.
Length Requirements	Essay meets or exceeds the 3-page requirement (exclusive of Works Cited page) with substantive content.	Essay meets the 3-page requirement (exclusive of Works Cited) with adequate content.	Essay barely meets the 3-page requirement with minimal content.	Essay falls slightly short of 3 pages.	Essay falls significantly short of the 3-page requirement.
Topic Introduction	Introduction skillfully guides reader into the subject with compelling context and smooth narrowing to the specific focus.	Introduction effectively introduces the subject and narrows to the specific focus.	Introduction adequately presents the subject but could transition more smoothly to the specific focus.	Introduction presents the subject but fails to narrow or focus effectively.	Introduction is missing, off-topic, or fails to introduce the subject.

Thesis Statement	Thesis is exceptionally clear, sophisticated, and precisely states why understanding the aspects of the topic are important.	Thesis is clear and effectively states why understanding the aspects of the topic are important.	Thesis is present and states why understanding the topic is important, but lacks some clarity or precision.	Thesis is present but vague, oversimplified, or doesn't adequately address importance.	Thesis is missing, unclear, or completely ineffective.
Source Requirements	Uses 4 or more high-quality college-level sources, including at least 2 from assigned readings, with perfect balance and integration.	Uses 4 appropriate college-level sources, including at least 2 from assigned readings, with good balance.	Uses 4 sources with at least 2 from assigned readings, but quality or balance could be improved.	Uses fewer than 4 sources or doesn't include 2 from assigned readings.	Uses fewer than 3 sources or no sources from assigned readings.
Source Integration	Sources are seamlessly integrated using varied and sophisticated signal phrases and transitions.	Sources are well-integrated using effective signal phrases and transitions.	Sources are adequately integrated with basic signal phrases but transitions could be improved.	Sources are poorly integrated with awkward signal phrases or dropped quotations.	Sources are not integrated with signal phrases; quotations are dropped or missing.
MLA Citations	Perfect MLA parenthetical citations throughout.	Mostly correct MLA parenthetical citations with minor errors.	Adequate MLA parenthetical citations with several errors.	Inconsistent or frequently incorrect MLA parenthetical citations.	Parenthetical citations missing or completely incorrect.

Paragraph Structure	Paragraphs are expertly introduced with seamless integration of credibility, context, and topic positioning.	Paragraphs are well-introduced with good integration of credibility, context, and topic positioning.	Paragraphs have adequate introductions but may lack smooth integration of all elements.	Paragraph introductions are weak, abrupt, or missing key contextual elements.	Paragraphs lack proper introductions or organizational structure.
Evidence Explanation	Consistently provides insightful explanation of how evidence illuminates the issue with exceptional depth and clarity.	Generally explains how evidence helps understand the issue with good insight.	Basic explanation of how evidence relates to the issue, but lacks depth or consistency.	Minimal explanation of how evidence relates to the issue; often presents evidence without analysis.	Fails to explain how evidence relates to the issue; evidence stands alone without analysis.
Alternative Viewpoints	When appropriate, thoroughly addresses opposing views with fairness and insight.	When appropriate, adequately addresses opposing views.	When appropriate, mentions opposing views but treatment may be superficial.	Minimal acknowledgment of opposing views when they should be addressed.	Completely ignores relevant opposing views.
Logical Organization	Organization expertly guides readers through a sophisticated thinking process toward understanding the topic.	Organization effectively guides readers through a clear thinking process.	Organization is adequate but the thinking process could be more clearly developed.	Organization is inconsistent, making the thinking process difficult to follow.	Organization is illogical or absent, failing to guide readers through any clear thinking process.

Goes Beyond Restatement	Conclusion masterfully extends beyond thesis restatement to provide insightful commentary on the broader significance in today's society.	Conclusion goes beyond thesis restatement to provide thoughtful commentary on broader significance.	Conclusion goes somewhat beyond thesis restatement but could develop broader significance more fully.	Conclusion mostly restates thesis with minimal insight into broader significance.	Conclusion merely restates thesis or is missing entirely.
Academic Voice	Consistently maintains sophisticated formal academic voice with no personal language (I/me/my/you/your), perfect tone, and precise word choice.	Maintains formal academic voice with no personal language, appropriate tone, and effective word choice.	Generally maintains academic voice with few instances of personal language and mostly appropriate tone and word choice.	Inconsistent academic voice with several instances of personal language or informal tone/word choice.	Frequently uses personal language or consistently employs informal tone/word choice inappropriate for academic writing.
Grammar and Mechanics	Flawless grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure throughout.	Strong grammar, spelling, punctuation, and sentence structure with minimal errors.	Adequate grammar and mechanics with some errors that don't significantly impede understanding.	Noticeable grammar and mechanical errors that sometimes impede understanding.	Frequent and serious grammar and mechanical errors that significantly impede understanding.
MLA Formatting	Perfect MLA formatting for all sources on Works Cited page.	Mostly correct MLA formatting with minor errors.	Adequate MLA formatting with several errors.	Significant MLA formatting errors throughout Works Cited page.	No proper MLA formatting used on Works Cited page.

Source Inclusion	All sources cited in essay are perfectly documented on Works Cited page.	All sources cited in essay are included on Works Cited page with minor documentation issues.	All sources cited in essay are included on Works Cited page but with inconsistent documentation.	Some sources cited in essay are missing from Works Cited page.	Many sources cited in essay are missing from Works Cited page.
Timeliness, Professionalism, and Extra Credit					
Grammarly Report	-10 points if missing or if obvious advice was ignored				
Late Submission	Points deducted based on lateness				
Writing Center Visit	+5 points for documented Writing Center assistance				
Grade and Feedback					
Overall average:					
General strengths, and areas to develop and improve in future writing:					