

Informative Synthesis Essay Evaluation Sheet

Format/Professionalism

Was the document uploaded in the correct file type? (doc, docx, odt)

Is the essay correctly formatted? ([MLA](#))

Does it meet length requirements? (3 pages, exclusive of the Works Cited page)

Is it turned in on time?

Is there a Work Cited page?

Introduction

[Synthesis Essay: Introduction](#)

Does the introduction move the reader into the subject the essay and focus on the topic?

- [Writing down the Basics](#), pp. 48-50 for discussion and examples.
- [Writing an Introduction: 3 Steps](#) ([Slideshow version](#))

Is the thesis a clear statement that sums up why understanding the aspects of the topic you're focused on and why they are important for us to understand or know more about?

- [Come Up with a Strong Thesis](#)

Content

Does the essay use at least 4 college-level sources? While 1 may be uncredible or not college-level (meme, song, ad, etc.) as an example or primary source, the other 3 should be college-level sources. (No more than 5 sources.) Two must come from our [readings/sources list](#).

- [Writing down the Basics](#), pp.62-65, Establishing Credibility.

Are sources smoothly integrated into sentences using signal phrases and transitions as needed?

- [Writer's Reference](#), p. 727+ (pdf page number) Pay special attention to the section on Dropped Quotations and Signal Phrases,
- [Avoiding Dropped Quotations](#)
- [Ashford University Writing Center: Integrating Research and their Video Tutorial](#)
- [Signal Phrases and How to Use Them](#)
- [A Guide to Rhetoric, Genre, and Success: Signal Phrases](#)
- [Building Credibility through Source Integration](#)

Is research cited with correct MLA parenthetical citations as needed?

- [See pages 78-82](#) of *Writing down the Basics*
- [Citing Tables, Graphics, and Images in MLA](#)
- [The Pearson Guide](#), pp 37-41--MLA in-text citations

Development

[How to Write a Synthesis Essay](#)

Are paragraphs and topics introduced smoothly, integrating credibility, context, and/or situating the upcoming information in the topic?

- [Informative vs. Argumentative Synthesis](#)
- [How to Synthesize Written Information from Multiple Sources](#)

- [Building Credibility Through Source Integration](#)
- [Writing Down the Basics](#), pp. 62-36

Does the writing explain how the evidence helps us understand an aspect or what it shows us about the issue?

- [Developing Body Paragraphs](#)
- [“Reading and Writing about Multi-modal Texts,”](#) from *A Writer’s Reference*. Check out the pdf pages 156-163
- [Literary Analysis of a Song](#)
- How to analyze an ad: [New Mexico Media Literacy Project](#), especially “Deconstructing Media Messages” on pages 3-4

If appropriate, does the writing bring up and address any opposing views?

- [Concessions & Counterarguments](#)

Is the work organized to lead the reader through the thinking process that led to the writer’s outlook on the topic?

Conclusion

Does the conclusion go beyond simply restating the thesis and content, and comment on the bigger picture of [why it’s important to understand](#) these ideas in this day and age?

- Review this for specific ideas to discuss: [How to Write a Synthesis Essay Conclusion](#)

Style

Does the style—voice, tone, sentence style, and word choice—reflect the type of writing expected in this essay? (**No I/me/my/you/ your**; formal tone and word choice.)

- [How to Avoid Using Personal Language](#)

Clarity

Does the writing reflect grammatical and mechanical correctness expected at this level? See [“Synthesis Essay Structure”](#)

Works Cited Page

Are all sources correctly cited on the Works Cited page using the most recent MLA style?

- [Writing down the Basics, pp 83-86](#)
- [Purdue OWL, MLA Section](#)

Are all sources in the essay cited on the Works Cited page?

Are all sources cited on the Works Cited page used in the essay?