Informative Synthesis Essay Revision Checklist

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## Thesis & Focus

* [ ] My thesis clearly states what I am exploring and why understanding it matters.
* [ ] My thesis is informative and neutral (not persuasive or opinion-based). (Suggested focus on why it’s important to know more about your topic/issue.)
* [ ] Each body paragraph is clearly connected to my thesis.

## Organization & Transitions

* [ ] Each paragraph is focused on one subtopic.
* [ ] I start each paragraph with a clear topic sentence.
* [ ] I use transitions between ideas and paragraphs to help guide the reader.

## Source Integration & Citation

* [ ] Every quote or statistic is introduced with a signal phrase (e.g., "According to...").
* [ ] It is clear where source material ends and my own thoughts begin.
* [ ] I use MLA in-text citations and have a correctly formatted Works Cited page.

## Synthesis (Connecting Ideas)

* [ ] I do more than summarize—I explain how sources relate to each other.
* [ ] I explore what the evidence shows us about the topic.
* [ ] I draw connections between the sources and the real-world implications.

## Clarity & Style

* [ ] My tone is formal and academic throughout.
* [ ] I avoid casual language and do not use "I" or "you."
* [ ] I proofread for grammar, sentence structure, and awkward phrasing.

## Conclusion

* [ ] My conclusion does more than repeat the thesis—it offers insight or a final thought.
* [ ] I address why understanding this topic matters.
* [ ] I help the reader understand the broader significance of the topic.

**Next Steps:**

Bring this completed checklist with you to a peer review, Writing Center session, or instructor conference. Also, use it to self-evaluate your work before you submit your final draft.

Tip: Strong revision isn’t just fixing mistakes—it’s about making your ideas clearer, deeper, and more connected.