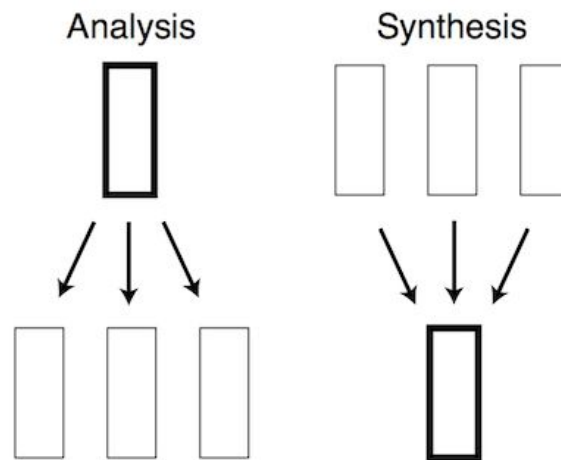# ENG 1020 Introductory College Writing
Wayne State University | Winter 2018

Project 3 Prequel: Synthesize Your Way into the Conversation

Introduction/Rationale

The synthesis is an advanced skill that academics use to map and insinuate themselves into the "conversation" surrounding their topic at hand. Simply put, synthesis combines analysis across two or more different works, describing similarities and differences between how they work by breaking them down and examining their various components. This assists the academic writer with identifying gaps in the conversation in order to find an entry point into it.
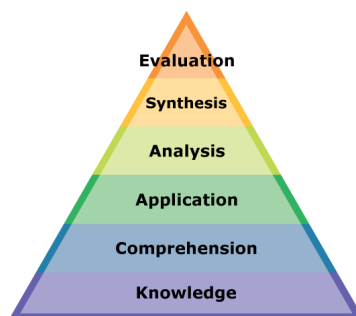

In this project, you will closely study the three pieces of nonfiction writing that you wrote about and cited in the I-Search. To write your synthesis of them, you will apply the previously learned (in project 1) advanced reading strategy of *analysis*, this time to three articles. Once you break down the arguments separately, you will combine, aka synthesize, aka put them together in your own combination, to begin create your own argument.
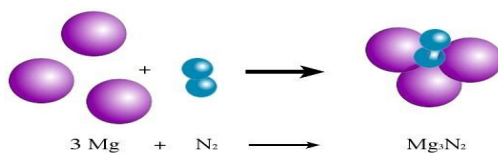

"Out of Many, One": Or, Our Country 'Tis a Synthesis

This assignment has three main goals: (1) to expand from the realm of understanding, summarizing, and analyzing a text into the more advanced skill of synthesizing (multiple) texts to prepare you ultimately for creating evaluative arguments/claims; (2) to practice using rhetorical concepts as a reading strategy to read and analyze multiple pieces of writing simultaneously; (3) to practice entering the academic conversation through synthesis. As your

instructor, I will use this assignment to assess your achievement across all three of these goals.

You will take your combination of three popular and/or scholarly sources to read, analyze on their own terms then synthesize (combine) together to create your own take on the conversation/topic at hand for this project--not unlike what happens while synthesizing in chemistry.

Assignment Prompt

Write a 500-750 word synthesis paper that **identifies**, **describes**, and **analyzes** both the content and the context of the three articles chosen in your I-Search, keeping in mind and providing your reader with commentary on the argumentative and rhetorical strategies the authors use in these texts if necessary. This synthesis project serves as a bridge between projects 2 and 3, resulting in a three-part project 3--3A (synthesis), 3B (researched argument), 3C (infographic and oral presentation)--which moves you from analysis, to synthesis and evaluation, in sequence of advanced critical analysis skills necessary for writing at the college level.

Required structure for this project. Bolded headings, similar to the headings used in this document, may be used to separate the different sections of your synthesis.

Title. This project must have a title that identifies the topic of the paper (e.g., "A Synthesis of 'Article X,' 'Article Y,' and 'Journal Z'") and a "hook" that gives readers some sense of the paper's main idea.

Introduction (1 paragraph): Introduce the topic and purpose of your paper, and present your thesis/claim about the articles--all three--being studied. State the purpose of your synthesis ("This synthesis aims to…" or "Examining rhetorical elements of these articles in conversation shows…").

Summary of Articles (1 paragraph); *The "Who" and "What" of the articles:* In a short paragraph following the intro, summarize all three articles and their content. The point of this is to practice summarizing succinctly/efficiently, making specific decisions regarding what are the highest that must be highlighted.

Analysis of Articles (1 paragraph each = 3 paragraphs total) *The "Where," "When" "Why" of the article:* Your analysis should focus on identifying--and describing--the claims + evidence within the writers' arguments.

Briefly describe the arguments and supporting evidence used by the author; *The "How" of the article.* Identify--and describe--the main arguments used in the article and how they interact with each other to form a "conversation." Be sure to include specific examples from the text to prove your points. Your synthesis can contribute to the conversation, by combining to create new evidence and/or ways of thinking for the Researched Argument you will be making in the next project.

Claim/Conclusion (2-3 paragraphs): Develop a claim about the claims and/or evidence of the articles being studied, which ties back to your thesis as stated in paragraph 1. Strong papers will develop and support the claim by quoting, paraphrasing, summarizing, and analyzing specific evidence from the articles themselves.

Minimum Requirements

- 500-750 words
- Synthesis must accurately identify and describe the claims and evidence within each of the articles chosen
- Synthesis must develop a claim about all three articles
- Submitted in Canvas from your OneDrive portfolio. See How To Submit Assignments for detailed instructions. Please name your Word doc as follows: ENG1020_Project1_Final_Yourlastname,Yourfirstname
- Typed using Microsoft Word in your OneDrive portfolio, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font with one-inch margins on all four sides.
- Be written in formal, edited English that is spell-checked and proofread
- Be formatted for MLA style, including citations and an MLA-style Works Cited page for all research sources, with page numbers in the top, right-hand corner, etc.

Learning Outcomes

- **Writing:** Compose persuasive academic genres, including summary, analysis, and synthesis. You'll practice demonstrating understanding of claims, evidence and exposing logical fallacies and/or gaps in the conversation surrounding your topic at hand. Use a flexible writing process that includes brainstorming ideas, planning, drafting, giving and receiving feedback, revising, editing, and publishing. You'll practice the MLA-style synthesis genre.
- **Reading:** Use reading strategies in order to identify, summarize, analyze, synthesize, and respond to arguments, rhetorical elements, and genre conventions in college-level

texts and other media. You'll use the concepts of rhetorical situation (if applicable to your argument), argument (claims + evidence), and persuasive appeals as a reading strategy to identify, agree or disagree with, and/or add to, articles circulating in your chosen "conversation"/field.

- **Researching:** Use an unbiased, objective and scholarly ethos to evaluate and use information from secondary sources to support/formulate new ideas and arguments.

Supporting Materials/Activities

- *FIAW* chapter 7
- "The Burkean Parlor"
- *Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL):* "How To Write a Lede"
- *Purdue OWL:* "How to Write a Conclusion"
- *Purdue OWL:* "MLA Style"
- "Conversation Blueprint" Project Builder (PB) 3.1
- "Mind the Gap" PB 3.2
- "The Kicker" PB 3.3
- Project Shitty First Draft (SFD)
- Project Reader Review Draft (RRD)
- Project Reader Review Checklist
- In-Class Reflection Journals (qty: 4)

Rubric

The academic synthesis is worth 100 points--10% of your final grade. The grading rubric for the assignment is listed below.

Features	Excellent	Acceptable	Needs Revision	Missing
Introduction				
Does the beginning of the paper introduce the topic?	5	4	3	0
Does the introduction state the purpose of the paper?	5	4	3	0
Does the beginning of the paper introduce or foreshadow the paper's claim? ("This synthesis argues that…")	8	6	4	0
Summary				
Do you accurately summarize all three articles being studied?	6	5	4	0
Do you accurately identify the main claims and subclaims of all three articles?	6	5	4	0
Analysis				

Do you accurately identify the main arguments used in the articles using specific examples from the text to prove your point?	10	8	6.5	0
Do you accurately identify the supporting arguments (subpoints) and assess the quality or lack thereof of the text's claims + evidence?	10	8	6.5	0
Synthesis				
Do you provide a persuasive description of common ground between the three texts (where the messages, claims and/or evidence intersect?	10	8	6.5	0
Do you provide a persuasive description of what are the differences between the three texts and how you reconcile them?	10	8	6.5	0
Claim/Conclusion				
Do you develop an evaluative claim about what the three articles say *together/in conversation* keeping the texts' rhetorical situations in mind?	15	12	10	0
Clear and Effective Writing				
Is your paper edited and polished for presentation?	5	4	3	0
Did you format your paper using MLA style?	5	4	3	0
Organization				
Do you present your ideas using a general to particular pattern that flows logically from one point to the next?	5	4	3	0

Calendar
Reading, Writing, and Project Drafts Due at start time of class unless otherwise noted

	Reading Due	Writing Due	Project Draft Due	In-Class Reflection Journal	In-Class Activity
Day 1 - *Foundations of Synthesis: Summary & Analysis* Tummy Man Conception	*FIAW* chapter 7	Canvas Discussion: *FIAW* Chapter 7	Project 2 (I-Search)	Write 1 summary paragraph for each of the sources from your I-Search	**"Conversation Blueprint" Project Builder:** Analyze each source by identifying main claims, subpoints + evidence into a Venn Diagram or other visual aid to chart the common ground and differences

					between sources' claims + evidence.
Day 2 - *Identifying Gap(s) in "the Conversation," and Building Accordingly* The Anatomy of Tummy Man	"The Burkean Parlor"	"Conversation Blueprint" Project Builder (PB) 3.1		Organize your ideas in order, using the general to particular pattern that flows logically from one idea to the next.	**"Mind the Gap" Project Builder:** Identify any gaps between your 3 sources; what is not being said? Present your idea(s) about and/or in addition to your 3 sources' claims/ideas. The catch: using/listing persuasive strategies of ethos, pathos and logos.
Day 3 - *First and Last(ing) Impressions: Crafting Effective Intros & Conclusions* Tummy Man's Face & Feet	*Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL):* "How To Write a Lede" *Purdue OWL:* "How to Write a Conclusion"	"Mind the Gap" PB 3.2	Project Shitty First Draft (SFD)	The Face: Write 1 draft paragraph which introduces (1) the topic, (2) the purpose of the paper, (3) foreshadows the claim + main evidence subpoints (linearly)	**"The Kicker" Project Builder:** Develop your evaluative claim(s) into an effective draft conclusion paragraph about what the 3 sources say *together/in conversation* (keeping the texts' rhetorical situations in mind)
Day 4 - *Reader Review Day* Tummy Man Goes to the Doctor	*Purdue OWL:* "MLA Style"	"The Kicker" PB 3.3	Project Reader Review Draft (RRD)	Write a note to your 2 reader reviewers regarding what 3 things you'd most like their feedback on	Using RRD checklist, review each other's papers for clear, effective writing, adherence to MLA style, etc.
			Project Final Due		