

Academic Synthesis Paper Assignment Sheet

- GOAL** The goal of this essay is to **synthesize** the research of three (3) academic/peer-reviewed articles in order to bring together various articles to **present** information to your reader. This type of writing is also called a literature review or review of the literature.
- TOPIC** You will synthesize three (3) research articles on the same topic. All articles must be from scholarly/peer-reviewed journal articles. You will choose the three (3) articles. You will use the academic article from Essay #1 and find two (2) more academic articles that relate appropriately to your topic. Your scholarly journal article must come from ProQuest Central, JSTOR, or another Durham Tech library database or government source (e.g. DOJ, Census Bureau).
- DIRECTIONS** In a developed, coherent essay, **synthesize** how the three (3) articles you chose. **Read** the three (3) articles. **Identify** one (1) to three (3) main points of overlap. When choosing points of overlap, agreement is not necessary. It is necessary that each article address the point of overlap in some way. **Write** a four (4) to six (6) page paper that incorporates all three (3) of your articles.

Your assignment is to

1. **Choose** two (2) academic/peer-reviewed/scholarly articles *in addition* to the academic article you used for Essay #1.
2. **Read and understand** all three (3) articles.
3. **Identify** one (1) to three (3) points of overlap.
4. **Determine** in what way(s) these points overlap (do the papers agree, disagree, dismiss, etc. the point(s)?).
5. **Write a paper** that introduces these points of overlap and **explains** their significance to the topic overall using examples from all three (3) essays.
6. **Properly include quotations** as support for your claims.
7. **Appropriately cite** all sources quoted.

DO NOT

1. Merely summarize each article.

2. Fail to quote and cite examples.

3. Forget a Works Cited page.

FORMAT

The essay should be 4-6 full pages, typed and double spaced, and include a works cited page (the works cited page is not part of the 4-6 page requirement). Page layout should follow APA style. The APA-style reference page should include the articles you have chosen for a total of three (3) entries. If you quote, you must cite appropriately. If you paraphrase, you must cite appropriately.

AUDIENCE

As you write each part of your essay, assume that your audience (me and your classmates) may not be familiar with the articles or topic you have chosen.

SUBMISSION

You **must** submit this essay via Sakai. You will also submit your peer review sheet(s) to me in class. Missing drafts will result in -10pts from the Essay #2 grade. Short drafts will result in -5pts from the Essay #2 grade. If your submission is marked late in Sakai the paper is late. Emailed papers will not be accepted or graded.

DUE DATES

Essay #2 Draft **DUE** April 13, 2017
Essay #2 Peer Review April 13, 2017
Essay #2 **DUE** April 14, 2017 by 11:55PM
Peer review sheets **DUE** April 18, 2017 in class

GRADING

Essay #2 is 15% of your total course grade.

RUBRIC

You will be graded on:

1. **The articles you choose:** do they all address the topic? Do the articles fit together in a meaningful way?
2. **The point(s) of overlap you identify:** do they appear in every article? Are they appropriate for inclusion in a synthesis (i.e. are they major points, etc.)? Do you correctly characterize the points?
3. **Your synthesis of the point(s) you identify:** Do you avoid summary? Do you bring the points together in a meaningful way, making connections BETWEEN papers?
4. **Your incorporation of support/quotations:** Do you use support from the articles? Is it appropriate?

5. **Your citations and Works Cited page:** Do you site your quotations? Do you have a Works Cited page? Do your citations and Works Cited page follow APA? *If you are missing a citation or a References page, this is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the paper.*

6. **Grammar and mechanics, including spelling:** Your paper should be free of grammar, usage, spelling, and typographical errors.

7. **Your organization and style:** Is your paper clear? Can I follow what you are writing? Do you have irrelevant or inappropriate content in your paper? Is your style overly simplistic or unnecessarily complex?