**Synthesis Essays**

**What’s the point?**

* The main purpose of a synthesis essay is to make insightful connections.
* The connections show the relationships between two or more works.
* You have to explain why those relationships are important.
* Argument synthesis – a strong thesis that presents writer’s POV; organizes relevant information in a logical manner to support thesis.

**Things to Note**

* A synthesis essay is **not** a summary.
* It is an opportunity to create new knowledge out of already existing knowledge: i.e. other sources.
* You combine (‘synthesize’) the information in your sources to create an argument or unique perspective on the topic.
* You must read your sources carefully. With most assignments, they provide you with your sources.

**General Tips**

* Write in third person: use he, she and it; use complete and unambiguous sentences.
* Present enough information to show credibility in the subject of your essay.
* Write in active voice as much as possible, though passive voice in lieu of the usage of first and second person (I and you) is acceptable.
* Compare and contrast: requires careful reading; can be written source by source or by similarities and differences.

**More General Tips**

* Plan ahead: create an outline.
* Re-read your source material looking for stuff that supports your thesis. You can skim it if you are reading it a second time.
* Pick out facts, quotes, ideas and facts that support your thesis.
* Write them down and use them throughout your essay.

**Thesis Statement**

* Your thesis statement is a one sentence claim that presents your perspective and identifies new knowledge that you will create.
* It needs to include a rough idea of your topic and the important point you want to make about that topic.
* On the provincial, your thesis statement should be your answer to the question they are asking you. You can do this by coming up with an opinion on your topic.

**Thesis Continued**

* The thesis is the main idea presented in the essay.
* It encompasses the topic and your point of view on the topic.
* It must be stated as a complete sentence.
* It should the last sentence of your first paragraph.

**Structure**

* Introduction: 1. hook sentence 2. identification of issue you’re discussing 3. thesis statement
* Body paragraphs: 1. topic sentence that gives one reason to support your sentence 2. your explanation and opinion of the topic sentence 3. support from sources to back up claims 4. explanation of the significance of sources
* Conclusion: 1. state further significance of topic from evidence and reasons discussed in essay 2. profound thought or thoughtful ending for your essay.