

Synthesis Paper

A synthesis paper is a written analysis that discusses the relationship between two or more literary works. Theses can be novels, poems, essays, or dramas. The thesis of your paper states the relationship between the themes of the works that you are comparing.

How to begin:

First, read the works under consideration and write a brief précis or summary of each work.

Second, determine how the works relate to one another. Look for points of similarity, particularly thematic points, which you can compare. Look for points of disparity, particularly thematic, which you can contrast. Is one a philosophical or theoretical presentation of a belief (usually an essay) that is fleshed out and either proven or disproven in the other (usually a work of fiction)? Does one address the theme in a general way while the other addresses a single aspect of that issue?

Third, write an introduction that establishes the synthesis you are going to explore. In your introduction you must introduce the works under consideration and their authors and state the relationship that exists between them. This must occur in the early sentences of your paper. Here are two examples:

Both Mary Wollstonecraft, in her famous essay, "Pernicious Effects Which Arise from the Unnatural Distinctions Established in Society" and Geoffrey Chaucer in "The Wife of Bath's Tale," explore the time old question of what it is that women really want. While Chaucer has created a humorous tale of lust and marital love, Wollstonecraft speaks more seriously about the way women are denied their rights and demeaned in general.

In his famous essay, "The Qualities of a Prince." Niccolo Machiavelli gives cynical and often unscrupulous advice to the man who would be prince, advice which appears to be followed unswervingly by King Claudius, the villain in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

Fourth, develop your paper by discussing the various ways the two (or more) works relate to one another, using quotations and specific references to the two texts.

Finally, conclude your paper with a solid conclusion which reflects upon your essay.

Stylistics: Use standard MLA style sheet for documenting sources and making your list of works cited.

TEKS Covered

1 A, B, C, E, F

2 A, B, C, D, E, F,

3 A, B, E

4 F, G, H

8 A, E, F, G, H, I

9 C

11 B, D

12 A, B, C