

Synthesis Essay: Planning and Outline

For your synthesis essay, you will need to make 2 decisions:

A) Formulate a question. Here are some sample questions:

1. How does *Text A* and *Text B* explore/depict _____?

How do the narrators of "Plight" and "Between the World and me" resist colonization and oppression?

How do "The Things They Carried" and "An Ounce of Cure" explore the identity-changing results of a difficult experience?

2. Compare and contrast how *Text A* and *Text B* portray/depict/explore ____ (a topic/theme significant to both texts)?

3. Another option –

What attitudes towards _____ appear in _____ and _____?

How does ___ and ___ use metaphor/irony/imagery/personification/another literary device?

B). Decide how you will structure your essay.

1. Compare/Contrast: Intro paragraph, 1 paragraph each Compare and Contrast; Synthesis and Conclusion
2. Subtopics: Intro paragraph, 2-3 body paragraphs taking on subtopics relevant to each text, Conclusion
3. Block form: Intro paragraph; Address the question for Text A; Address the question for Text B; Synthesis and Conclusion

No matter what approach you take, you MUST include:

- A deliberate, specific thesis statement that states your central argument
- Topic sentences that establish the purpose of each paragraph
- Transitions between points, ESPECIALLY to connect your body paragraphs if doing block
- Specific support from both poems, including correctly incorporated quotations
- A conclusion that reflects and makes meaning (a continuation and revisiting of your thesis statement)

Outline:

Essay question: _____

<p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Hook and/or Context</p>	
<p><i>Introduction</i></p> <p>Thesis Statement</p>	
<p><i>Body Paragraph A</i> <i>(focus of paragraph)</i></p> <p>_____</p>	<p>Topic Sentence:</p> <p>Supporting evidence:</p>
<p><i>Body paragraph B</i> <i>(focus of paragraph)</i></p>	<p>Transition and Topic Sentence:</p> <p>Supporting evidence:</p>
<p><i>Conclusion</i></p> <p>Given what you've considered, what do you now <u>conclude</u>?</p>	