



# Explanatory Synthesis Essay

A **synthesis essay** is an essay that uses information from multiple sources with different views in order to explain something or to support a new and original claim or idea. An **explanatory synthesis essay** uses information from different sources to explain a point of view. It compares and contrasts ideas without attempting to persuade the reader that one view or another is correct.

The purpose of an explanatory synthesis paper is for a student to become knowledgeable about a particular area. To do this, he/she/they gathers information from a number of different sources, and then synthesizes that information objectively and comprehensively. Synthesis can include:

- Observing similarities and difference
- Identifying patterns
- Identifying themes
- Analyzing varying viewpoints

By doing so, the student, and readers of the essay, gain a deeper understanding of the topic.

What are you going to write an explanatory essay about?

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Identify at least 5 different sources you can use when conducting research for your essay.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.