

Verbs for Synthesis Essays

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. There are three types of synthesis essays:

- An **argumentative synthesis essay** is structured like a basic argumentative essay. Its thesis makes a claim, and the body of the essay comprises an argument that supports that claim.
- 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.
- An **literature review synthesis essay** is usually written as part of a larger project. It involves reviewing existing literature on a particular topic and identifying common themes. An analysis of the literature helps the student to identify which issues have been well-researched and analyzed and which haven't. This kind of research can be useful as a way to justify specific research the student would like to conduct.



For your reference, the following verbs are commonly used in each type of synthesis essay. The tone for an explanatory and a literature review synthesis essay are very similar, and depending on the context, some of the verbs below can be used in both.

Argumentative	affirms, confirms, disagrees, concedes, insists, rejects
Explanatory	finds, verifies, states, suggests, reveals, claims
Literature Review	advises, mentions, proposes, holds, predicts, speculate