



Synthesis Essay

An essay is a short piece of non-fiction prose. Essays are a useful form of communicating ideas through writing because they can be read more quickly and easily than books. 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.
- 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.

While the thesis in a synthesis essay can be subjective, its author uses objective evidence and data culled from research to argue and support their point. A synthesis essay typically follows the five-paragraph essay structure.

What kind of synthesis essay are you writing? _____

What is your thesis?

How will you structure your essay?
