

AP Language and Composition Summer Project and Essay

RATIONALE: *Synthesis* is one of the key concepts of the AP Language and Composition curriculum. Not only will you be asked to *synthesize* a variety of texts on the AP examination, but you will also be asked to synthesize your own understandings, observations, and analysis throughout the semester to create your own thoughtful and original critical essays.

So what is synthesis? *Synthesis* is the process of combining two or more different elements to form a theory, even if those elements might be contradictory. You have *synthesized* in English class before: any time you tracked and assessed motifs in relation to themes or compared and contrasted various texts or characters within a text, you have engaged in the process of *synthesis*.

PRODUCTS: You are going to choose a topic that interests you and then choose two books to read over the summer that address the topic in profound ways (either one fiction and one non-fiction or two non-fiction). You will develop a thesis that takes a position on your chosen topic. Remember that a thesis is an arguable claim the writer utilizes in order to structure their argument and persuade their audience toward their purpose. Demonstrating an awareness of this will impact your grade significantly.

- 1) You will use this thesis/argument as a stepping-stone to create a **HIGH-QUALITY** piece of artwork that is personally meaningful, intellectually stimulating, and visually attractive. This artwork should uniquely and vividly capture your argument.
- 2) **Accompanying your artwork will be a reflective essay that describes your aims and objectives as an artist: this essay is analytical in nature and should dissect the thesis as it is present in both your books and your art. I do not give page requirements, but your analysis should be in-depth, edited, in MLA 8 format, and MUST have an MLA 8 works cited page.**

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OBJECTIVES:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of how to take a position and support it via the visual or performing arts.
2. Students will be able to produce high quality works of art that support their thesis, which they will be able to critically analyze and thoroughly explicate via writing and discussion.
3. Students will demonstrate facility in the synthesis and analysis of challenging texts through both visual and written communication

ART PROJECT METHODS: You have relative creative freedom on this project. You can choose from the options below to demonstrate your understanding:

Some options:

- **Become a composer.** Compose a song cycle based on the topic and position you take (music must be performed or presented to the class).
- **Become a mixed-media artist.** Create a collage that synthesizes your position on your topic.
- **Become a poet.** Construct a bound book of poems based on your thesis and subsequent arguments. Six poems minimum.
- **Become a 3-D artist.** Fabricate a sculpture that conveys your thesis.
- **Become a fine artist.** Create a painting or drawing that represents the abstract and concrete representations of something symbolic in your books, as it relates to your thesis. These should be mounted, framed, or otherwise well-presented.
- **Become a playwright.** Synthesize your books and the position your have taken on your topic theatrically. You may write a scene involving multiple characters, or write a series of overlapping dramatic monologues.

This will be your first AP LANG and COMP writing grade for the 2019-2020 school year, and it should be developed and edited to the highest standards.

Communication with me during the summer months will not be a definite (though I may check my work email on occasion, it is not a guarantee). Any questions you have about this project must be addressed before you leave for the school year – so please make sure you are examining this assignment and your literature choices before you leave for vacation.

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