

AP Literature Creative Assignment

Bannon/Jordan/Wilhelmy

RATIONALE: *Synthesis* is one of the key concepts of the AP Literature 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 simply the process of making something new by combining two or more different elements; it is a complex whole formed by combining elements, 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 make literary art! After reading TWO texts off the AP Literature Summer Reading list, you will develop a thesis that explores the SYNTHESIS of a common thematic idea between the two texts (ex: “What do both *The Bacchae* and *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf* say about monstrous forms of motherhood?”) Remember that a theme **MUST** be expressed as a complete thought and not simply a subject. 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** 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 an artist’s statement (no more than two pages, MLA formatted) that describes your aims and objectives as an artist. This statement will explain, justify, and analyze your work for potential critics (your classmates).**

OUTCOMES:

1. Students will be able to demonstrate their understanding of the key themes of notable writers via the visual or performing arts.
2. Students will be able to produce high quality works of art which they will be able to critically analyze and sensitively explicate via writing and discussion.

3. Students will demonstrate facility in the synthesis and analysis of challenging literature through both visual and written communication

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 themes you isolate (music must be performed or presented to the class).
- **Become a mixed-media artist.** Create a collage that synthesizes your thematic claim.
- **Become a poet.** Construct a bound book of poems based on your arguments. Six poems minimum.
- **Become a 3-D artist.** Fabricate a sculpture that conveys your claim.
- **Become a fine artist.** Create a painting or drawing that represents the abstract and concrete representations of something symbolic in your novels. These should be mounted, framed, or otherwise well-presented.
- **Become a playwright.** Synthesize your texts theatrically. You may write a scene involving multiple characters, or write a series of overlapping dramatic monologues (suggested page length = 5 pages minimum). You will eventually perform this for the class.

Communication with us during the summer months will not be a definite (though we may check our emails on occasion, it is not a guarantee). Any questions you have about this project must be addressed to us 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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