

## AP Literature Summer Essay

Ms. Bannon

**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 theme between the two texts. Remember that a theme **MUST** be expressed as a complete thought and not simply a subject (“family” cannot be a theme, but “the strength of family is undeterred by circumstance” is a theme). 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 synthesis essay that describes your aims and objectives as an artist: this essay is analytical in nature and should dissect the theme as it is present in both your texts and your art. I do not give page requirements, but your analysis should be in-depth, edited, and in MLA format.**

## **OBJECTIVES:**

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.

**This will be your first AP LIT and COMP essay grade for the 2020-2021 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.

Ms. Bannon: [mbannon@cpsd.us](mailto:mbannon@cpsd.us)