

# The Synthesis Essay

## WHAT IS A SYNTHESIS?

A synthesis is a written discussion that draws on one or more sources. It follows that your ability to write syntheses depends on your ability to infer relationships among sources - essays, articles, fiction, and also non-written sources, such as lectures, interviews, and observations. This process is nothing new for you, since you infer relationships all the time - say, between something you've read in the newspaper and something you've seen for yourself, or between the teaching styles of your favorite and least favorite instructors. In fact, if you've written research papers, you've already written syntheses. In an academic synthesis, you make explicit the relationships that you have inferred among separate sources.

Clearly, before you're in a position to draw relationships between two or more sources, you must understand what those sources say; in other words, you must be able to summarize these sources. It will frequently be helpful for your readers if you provide at least partial summaries of sources in your synthesis essays. At the same time, you must go beyond summary to make judgments - judgments based, of course, on your critical reading of your sources - as you have practiced in your reading responses and in class discussions. You should already have drawn some conclusions about the quality and validity of these sources; and you should know how much you agree or disagree with the points made in your sources and the reasons for your agreement or disagreement.

Further, you must go beyond the critique of individual sources to determine the relationship among them. Is the information in source B, for example, an extended illustration of the generalizations in source A? Would it be useful to compare and contrast source C with source B? Having read and considered sources A, B, and C, can you infer something else - D (not a source, but your own idea)?

Because a synthesis is based on two or more sources, you will need to be selective when choosing information from each. It would be neither possible nor desirable, for instance, to discuss in a ten-page paper on the battle of Wounded Knee every point that the authors of two books make about their subject. ***What you as a writer must do is select the ideas and information from each source that best allow you to achieve your purpose.***

## PURPOSE

Your purpose in reading source materials and then in drawing upon them to write your own material is often reflected in the wording of an assignment. For example, your assignment may ask that you evaluate a text, argue a position on a topic, explain cause and effect relationships, or compare and contrast items. While you might use the same sources in writing an argumentative essay as your classmate uses in writing a comparison/contrast essay, you will make different uses of those sources based on the different purposes of the assignments. What you find worthy of detailed analysis in Source A may be mentioned only in passing by your classmate. Many times, your purpose will be dictated by the assignment.

## USING YOUR SOURCES

Your purpose determines not only what parts of your sources you will use but also how you will relate them to one another. Since the very essence of synthesis is the combining of information and ideas, you must have some basis on which to combine them. It follows that the better able you are to discover such relationships, the better able you will be to use your sources in writing syntheses. Your purpose in writing (based on your assignment) will determine how you relate your source materials to one another. Your purpose in writing determines which sources you use, which parts of them you use, at which points in your essay you use them, and in what manner you relate them to one another.

# How To Write Synthesis Paper

**Kathleen Armour**



## **How To Write Synthesis Paper:**

How To Write Synthesis Paper: Bestsellers in 2023 The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous captivating novels captivating the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the engaging narratives that have captivated audiences this year. How To Write Synthesis Paper : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This touching tale of love, loss, and resilience has captivated readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover expertly weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can prevail. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. How To Write Synthesis Paper : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This mesmerizing coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens spins a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of compelling stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and gripping novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a cautionary tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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### Table of Contents How To Write Synthesis Paper

1. Understanding the eBook How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - The Rise of Digital Reading How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Exploring Different Genres
  - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
  - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
  - Popular eBook Platforms
  - Features to Look for in an How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Personalized Recommendations
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper User Reviews and Ratings
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing How To Write Synthesis Paper Free and Paid eBooks
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper Public Domain eBooks
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper eBook Subscription Services
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating How To Write Synthesis Paper eBook Formats
  - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper Compatibility with Devices
  - How To Write Synthesis Paper Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience
  - Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Highlighting and Note-Taking How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Interactive Elements How To Write Synthesis Paper
8. Staying Engaged with How To Write Synthesis Paper

- Joining Online Reading Communities
  - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
  - Following Authors and Publishers How To Write Synthesis Paper
9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books How To Write Synthesis Paper
- Benefits of a Digital Library
  - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection How To Write Synthesis Paper
10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
- Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
  - Minimizing Distractions
  - Managing Screen Time
11. Cultivating a Reading Routine How To Write Synthesis Paper
- Setting Reading Goals How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
12. Sourcing Reliable Information of How To Write Synthesis Paper
- Fact-Checking eBook Content of How To Write Synthesis Paper
  - Distinguishing Credible Sources
13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
- Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
  - Exploring Educational eBooks
14. Embracing eBook Trends
- Integration of Multimedia Elements
  - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

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