



"It's not called 'plagiarism' anymore.
It's 'pre-packaged originality'."

Ms. Maxson says, "Yikes!"

The Synthesis Paper

This synthesis paper should offer a little bit of everything: your ability to find solid research, your use of rhetorical techniques such as narrative, definition, scientific data, cause and effect, comparison, and persuasive tricks of the trade in order to convince your audience of your expertise as well as towards your point of view, while appropriately citing your sources.

Task: To write *a sophisticated argument* in which **use the following strategies to prove your point:**

- 1) Narrative (qualitative research)
- 2) Definition
- 3) Scientific Data (only one, 2 x 2 or smaller *self-made* graph or visual in addition to prose style statistics/quantitative research)
- 4) Speculation of causes and/or effects
- 5) Comparisons and/or analogies
- 6) Persuasive techniques such as dining with the opposition, dynamic language, different types of appeals- emotional, logical, and authoritative (pathos, logos, ethos)
- 7) Establish your credibility by using other resources to support your point of view
- 8) Awareness of your audience and critical perspectives
- 9) Address counterarguments (They Say, I Say)
- 10) Clearly cite in-text and in works cited, your resources (**at least 10 resources**)—using different strategies to present that information: paraphrasing, short quotes, long quotes. (five of your sources may be in a works consulted list)
- 11) **At least ten (10) resources--must include: three scholarly journal articles, one TED talk (or equivalent lecture), one literary connection, one "expert" interview, and one published book (yes, hard copy or kindle/nook!)**

Paper must be well-developed and therefore, should be at least **7-10** "content" MLA formatted, typed pages (No cover sheets. Work cited must be included and is not counted as part of the 7 content pages. First Draft must be 8 pages and tightened for the final)

When drafting, consider:

- Examination of the subject, addressing of a problem within the subject, consideration of possible solutions or keeping the status quo
- Remember to connect well your claims, support and warrants.
- Description and explanation of the relationship among any links, especially in an argument based on a series of links in a causal chain.
- Evidence that your description and explanation are accurate and thorough
- Evidence to show that your reasoning is sound and usually presented in order of their strength and importance
- Consideration of alternative solutions or keeping status quo and evidence that you have considered them carefully before rejecting them
- Did you prove your thesis? Did you reveal your expertise?

Due Dates: TBA but here are a list of “assignments”

1. Topic Selection
2. Precis #1 (definition), #2 (narrative) Precis #3 (comparison), and #4 (causal) with their research articles.
3. Thesis, Outline/Counterarguments
4. Precis #5 (with the BOOK—bring it to class), Precis #6 (Interview) with notes of process
5. Claims, and analysis write up
6. Annotated Bibliography and Presentation
7. Complete (at least 8 pages with works cited) Draft due at turnitin.com and printed for class
8. Peer Reviews
9. Self Reflection
10. Final Draft due as revision at turnitin.com. (At least 7 pages with works cited)

Below you will find a reminder of how to write a Precis:

MAXSON's version of Rhetorical Précis Format

- a) In a single coherent sentence give the following:
 - name of the author, title of the work, date in parenthesis;
 - a rhetorically accurate verb (such as "assert," "argue," "deny," "refute," "prove," "disprove," "explain," etc.);
 - a *that* clause containing the major claim (thesis statement) of the work.
- b) In a single coherent sentence give an explanation of how the author develops and supports the major claim (thesis statement).
- c) Offer the best direct evidence (1-3 lines) from this source, something you may want to use in your paper.
- d) In a single coherent sentence give a statement of the author's purpose, followed by an "in order" phrase.
- e) In a single coherent sentence give a description of the intended audience and/or the relationship the author establishes with the audience.

MODEL: Charles S. Peirce's ✓article, "The Fixation of Belief (1877), ✓asserts that ✓humans have psychological and social mechanisms designed to protect and cement (or "fix") our beliefs. ✓Peirce backs this claim up with descriptions of four methods of fixing belief, pointing out the effectiveness and potential weaknesses of each method. ✓ADD DIRECT EVIDENCE HERE. Peirce's purpose is to point out the ways that people commonly establish their belief systems ✓in order to ✓jolt the awareness of the reader into considering how their own belief system may be the product of such methods and to consider what Peirce calls "the method of science" as a progressive alternative to the other three. ✓Given the technical language used in the article, Peirce is writing to an well-educated audience with some knowledge of philosophy and history and a willingness to other ways of thinking. ✓

Works Cited

Glasbergen, Randy. "Today's Cartoon." Cartoon. *Beyond the Classroom*. N.p., 2009. Web. 23 Feb. 2014.

"Sample Rhetorical Précis." *Sample Rhetorical Precis*. Oregon State University, n.d. Web. 23 Feb. 2014