

EH 101.105, COMPOSITION I

Essay 4

Analyzing and Synthesizing

Due Dates:

Drafts Due – Friday, 10/30

Drafts for Peer Review – Friday, 11/6

Submission Date – Monday, 11/9

Length: 5-6 pages (approximately 1500-1800 words), plus Works Cited page

Value: 150 points (15%)

Assignment: Write an essay on an issue (or problem) of your choice in which you summarize and analyze two texts that address that issue and then you synthesize a solution to that issue from your analysis of the two texts. The issue you choose can be the same one you wrote on in Essay 3, but it does not have to be. Your audience, again, is composed of students who are not majoring in your discipline. The summary and analysis should be “objective.” That is, it should be as value neutral as is possible. The synthesis establishes your position, but it is your position supported with evidence.

Synthesis Question: After you summarize and analyze your two articles, you will need to formulate a good synthesis question. Your synthesis question will in part be dictated by the content of the two articles you have chosen. They need to respond to an important problem. Your synthesis in effect tries to solve that problem by identifying important factors involved in the problem or by suggesting a particular course of action for solving the problem.

Elements and Outline of Your Paper: Like Essays 1 and 3, this essay is a closed-form essay, which means that the form largely is already determined. It is up to you to follow that form and to manipulate it where you have to. In this case, you have a choice between two general frameworks:

1. *Framework 1*
 - a. Intro and summary
 - b. Analytical section
 - c. Synthesis section
 - d. Conclusion
2. *Framework 2*
 - a. Intro
 - b. Summary/analysis of text 1
 - c. Summary/analysis of text 2
 - d. Synthesis section
 - e. Conclusion

See page 302 for further details on each framework.

Drafts: Your drafts on 10/30 should at least have efforts at all the elements of the essay, but it may be only three or four pages or so. The more you have, the more I can help you.

Peer Review: You must have a complete draft for peer review on 10/14. The draft must be a revised version you submitted to me. If you fail to meet either of these criteria, you will not be able to participate in peer review and will be marked absent.

General Grading Criteria: Your essay will be evaluated according to the “Shared Criteria for Evaluating Writing” found on pp. 607-609. I will expect you to make a reasonable effort to address any mechanical errors (grammar and spelling), but this aspect won’t be as important as the others. Your essay also must use the surprising-reversal thesis strategy; the summary of the opposing view should be neutral and complete; and your information and reasoning should be relevant and credible.

You must submit the final copy to Sakai and submit a folder with the drafts in class.