

Writing the Synthesis Essay:

An introduction that draws the reader in with relevant context . A good introduction might:

- Introduce the issue
- Give some historical background
- Define the terms of the problem
- State main claim in a thesis statement. Can be two sentences.

Body Paragraphs: Topic sentence – with sub-claim one that takes on some facet of the issue

- Draw upon sources – but do not introduce the source as the topic of your paragraph or summarize
- Use two sources if you can
- Use quotations, but do not go overboard. Try to integrate quotations into your own writing seamlessly.
- Do not – as a general rule of thumb—begin or end a paragraph with a sentence that has lots of quotations from the source.
- End the paragraph with a really strong claim that reaffirms the main point you were trying to make – one that forcefully reminds the reader what you see or notice in the sources you cited and how they relate to your main idea
- One body paragraph should address—and refute, to some extent--a counterargument and that in that paragraph you have refuted that counterargument to some extent.

Conclusion: So what? What's the take away? What are the implications of your argument?