

Synthesis Essay

Making Connections to Ideas Through Shakespeare's Macbeth and other Perspectives

Task: Write a 3-4 page paper that explores a statement about a major thematic idea from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Present a position on the statement, and use the perspectives presented in a wide variety of sources to explore different facets of the idea.

Sources: You should use *Macbeth* as a source, as well as THREE more sources from THREE of the following categories: (That's four sources in all, including *Macbeth*.)

A LITERARY SOURCE: A source in the form of a story, poem, novel, film, or play. The author shows his or her perspective on the statement through the story of the piece.

A VISUAL SOURCE: A source in the form of a photograph or artwork. The author shows his or her perspective on the statement through symbolic use of image, color, style, and sometimes words. (Must have artist/photographer and date listed--NOT a random picture found with Google image search)

AN EDITORIAL SOURCE: A source that highlights the author's perspective, written in first person. Will often be in the form of an "Op-Ed" (Opinion Editorial) piece in a newspaper or magazine, may also be found on a blog.

A SCHOLARLY SOURCE: A source found in an academic database, journal, or magazine. Still contains opinion, but in a way that is also supported by research and facts from other sources. The perspective is seen in the thesis/findings of the piece.

MLA: The paper should be written in MLA style, including correct citations, a heading, double-spaced standard font, and a Works Cited page.

Voice: A synthesis piece can and should contain your own opinion which you assert along the way, and especially in your introduction and conclusion. Your voice should remain academic, but also your own. Using "I" and "me" is ok--use your own commentary to transition between sources.

Position: Your paper should DEFEND, ATTACK, or QUALIFY your target statement. This position should be evident throughout the piece, and especially in your conclusion. Think of yourself as a lawyer building a case--your sources are the witnesses that you question in order to demonstrate your claim.

**Communications 3: Macbeth Unit
Synthesis Rubric**

____/ 10	Intro/Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Introduce the topic with the use of the statement* Introduction includes a thesis statement/position to discuss your topic* Background information is clear and opens the topic to the audience* Conclusion reviews the main points and ends with a final thought or statement
____/ 10	Source #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Topic sentence correctly applies to the topic of the paper and refers back to the thesis* Discussion includes introduction to textual/visual source with author* Proper inclusion of quote/discussion of quote* Connection to main topic is clear, properly supports the idea
____/ 10	Source #2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Topic sentence correctly applies to the topic of the paper and refers back to the thesis* Discussion includes introduction to textual/visual source with author* Proper inclusion of quote/discussion of quote* Connection to main topic is clear, properly supports the idea
____/ 10	Source #3 <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Topic sentence correctly applies to the topic of the paper and refers back to the thesis* Discussion includes introduction to textual/visual source with author* Proper inclusion of quote/discussion of quote* Connection to main topic is clear, properly supports the idea
____/ 10	Source #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Topic sentence correctly applies to the topic of the paper and refers back to the thesis* Discussion includes introduction to textual/visual source with author* Proper inclusion of quote/discussion of quote* Connection to main topic is clear, properly supports the idea
____/ 5	Mechanics, grammar, spelling, capitalization, punctuation
____/ 55	TOTAL

Comments: