American Voices Essay

General Guidelines & Approaching the Assignment

What is a synthesis essay?

- Make insightful connections through a persuasive stance
- Use sources to support YOUR argument use what they say for your purpose
- Don't adopt the arguments of the sources.

 Participate in a "conversation" with them.

 Engage in critical thinking going beyond what the sources have said to include your observations and analysis.





hook + transition + thesis + method

Body Paragraphs:

3 or more paragraphs following the structure outlined in the method

Conclusion:

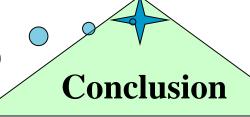
essay summary + significance (so what?)

Restated "Thesis"



Introduction

3+ Body Paragraphs



Building Your Thesis & Method

- THESIS: Present a clear, decisive, connotatively rich statement that SYNTHESIZES the pieces. You are not analyzing or evaluating the pieces separately; you are bringing them together to build a common statement about them.
- METHOD: Determine the 3(+) topics you will discuss in order to prove your thesis.

Body Paragraph Structure

- 1. <u>Body Thesis</u> providing a clear connection to the thesis
- 2. <u>3+ Quotations (evidence)</u>, all <u>integrated</u> or <u>framed</u>, reflecting the diversity of passages
- 3. More <u>Commentary</u> than evidence, but the sentence "order" is your choice
- 4. <u>Concluding Sentence</u> explaining how the paragraph as a whole connects to the essay's thesis (How does it support the thesis?)

Structuring Your Essay

DO NOT

- Write 1 body paragraph per source.
- Focus on your ideas (not informed by the passages) about the subject.
- Summarize the sources.
- Craft an obvious, feeble thesis ("People have different identities...").

DO

- Build paragraphs around connections, integrating <u>a minimum</u> of 4 selections including *To Kill a Mockingbird*.
- Make a SPECIFIC statement about the "whole" of the selections in the thesis.

MLA Format

- Attention to detail is a must!
- Use the provided models to match up formatting of

NAME CONVENTIONS PAPER HEADING

TITLE FORMAT IN-TEXT
CITATIONS

MARGINS

PARAGRAPH SPACING (inc. indent) RUNNING HEADER