



ENGL 1013

Essay Assignment 4: Argumentative Synthesis

In the Argumentative Synthesis, you will use information from multiple resources addressing the same topic to argue your own position on that topic. This assignment requires that you make an explicit **thesis**, or claim, about your topic and use your sources to provide adequate support for your thesis.

You will write the Argumentative Synthesis **subjectively**. You will present your own stance on the topic and state which points from your sources you agree or disagree with.

Introduction:

Your introduction should indicate the topic you will discuss and your thesis. The introduction should also provide an essay map, which gives a layout of your essay. You do not need to introduce all of your sources, but if some sources play an especially large role in your essay, you should introduce them.

1. Be specific in stating your **thesis**. The thesis statement will indicate to your readers what exactly you are arguing in the essay. It is not simply a statement of your topic.

Example vague thesis: *Getting young people to vote in elections is a complicated process.*

Example specific thesis: *We should motivate young people to vote in elections by taking advantage of social media platforms.*

2. Write your essay map, which states the points you will make in support of your thesis.

Example: *Social media can help motivate young people to vote because not only does it help raise awareness about the candidates and upcoming votes, it also gets them enthusiastic about voting.*

Body:

The body elaborates on the points in your essay map. Use information from your sources and your own original argumentation to explain how each point ties into your thesis.

Important considerations for writing the body:

1. Do not misrepresent your sources (e.g., by taking a quotation out of context or claiming they believe something they do not)
2. Maintain an appropriate tone, regardless of how passionate you feel about your topic.
3. Consider the other side of the argument. What would your opponents say in response to you?

Example of planting a naysayer: *Some might claim that social media skews young people's perception of candidates. However, this criticism could be leveled against any media source.*

Conclusion:

Your conclusion addresses the “so what” question—why does your paper/topic matter?

Example: *Using social media to encourage young people to vote is a step toward helping them realize their own civic responsibility and appreciate the role they play in American politics.*