

How to Write a Synthesis Essay

The Introductory Paragraph

The Hook

The Background Information

The Thesis

The **hook** captures the reader's attention – it can be a question, a quote or statistic – but it must fire the imagination.

The hook is followed by **background information**. This should **include the "titles" of both works** that you are referencing. Give a brief explanation of the pertinent details such as the setting or conflict. **Note that titles of short works should be in quotation marks**

The **thesis** usually a single sentence that summarizes the argument or point that you are trying to make.

The Body Paragraphs

Topic Sentence

Information

Concluding Statement

Transitions

Topic Sentence

Information

Concluding Statement

The **topic sentence** of a body paragraph poses the subject for discussion. A good paragraph then provides details, statistics or examples to support the topic sentence. This is followed by a **concluding statement** that wraps up this subject and leads into the next. **Transitions** are an effective way to lead into another sentence or paragraph.

Be sure to present a balanced discussion of both works. To ensure that you do this, quote from each work.

LOGICAL RELATIONSHIP	TRANSITIONAL EXPRESSION
Similarity	also, in the same way, just as ... so too, likewise, similarly
Exception/Contrast	but, however, in spite of, on the one hand ... on the other hand, nevertheless, nonetheless, notwithstanding, in contrast, on the contrary, still, yet
Sequence/Order	first, second, third, ... next, then, finally
Time	after, afterward, at last, before, currently, during, earlier, immediately, later, meanwhile, now, recently, simultaneously, subsequently, then
Example	for example, for instance, namely, specifically, to illustrate
Emphasis	even, indeed, in fact, of course, truly
Place/Position	above, adjacent, below, beyond, here, in front, in back, nearby, there
Cause and Effect	accordingly, consequently, hence, so, therefore, thus
Additional Support or Evidence	additionally, again, also, and, as well, besides, equally important, further, furthermore, in addition, moreover, then

Interesting, Effective Conclusions:

Restate Thesis with fresh language.

Clincher

Suggestions

1. If your essay deals with a problem, warn readers of the possible consequences.
2. Recommend a specific course of action.
3. Use a quotation or expert opinion to lend authority to the conclusion you have reached.
4. Give a startling statistic, fact, or visual image to drive home your point.
5. Return to the question, example or quotation that you introduced in your introduction, but add further insight.
6. A conclusion is not merely a summary of your points or a re-statement of your thesis. If you wish to summarize—and often you must—do so in fresh language
7. A good last sentence leaves your reader with something to think about.
8. For most essays, one well-developed paragraph is sufficient for a conclusion.