

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