Writing Project 2 Prompt: Analysis/Synthesis

English 102

Analysis/Synthesis Paper

Length: 3-5 pages (not including cover page or Reference Page)

Citation Style: APA

Draft due: June 3

Final Due: June 10 {This originally listed the wrong date, and has been updated.]

Assignment:

A synthesis paper asks that you come up with a central claim (a thesis) which stems from an understanding of and engagement with multiple authors. It is your responsibility to make a central claim that is not found in your individual sources but rather grows from your engagement with the whole of the research you've done. The idea of the synthesis is to make your own claims more developed and well informed after conducting research on a topic and bringing that research together in support of your argument.

For this paper, pick a topic related in some way to the novel Coronavirus pandemic. This can be directly related to the virus or more loosely related. For instance, this outbreak has made it so that my children are doing virtual learning from home. One of elements that has shaped the move to virtual learning that I'm interested in is how special education needs will be met during this time. Thus, my topic could be special education in the era of Covid-19. There are numerous possibilities of topics you could draw on. If you're having trouble finding a topic, look back to the brainstorming activities we did in Week One.

Find 3-4 credible, quality sources that discuss your topic, and write a 3-5 page essay where you analyze and synthesize the sources as a way to support a clear thesis/argument about your topic. In other words, you will read, analyze, and synthesize the ideas you find in the sources, appropriately giving credit to the information you find. Your thesis for this essay should stem from an understanding of the sources that develops when they are brought together.

Be sure to put the sources into conversation with one another, showing where they relate and where they diverge. If you find that the pieces you have chosen share a point of view, consider the ways in which their theses converge or bifurcate. If the sources you select are in opposition to one another, examine why and how they disagree. In both cases, you’ll then need to find a place for yourself in that conversation. No doubt your paper will contain some amount of summary; however, the summaries should only be used as way to consolidate and mobilize arguments. This is not merely comparing your sources. You will need to consider the similarities and differences and then mobilize those to develop your own thesis in regards to the topic you have selected.

A strong synthesis paper will do the following:

accurately summarizes and represents the main argument, claims, and evidence of authors you are conversing with (what "they say")

puts the authors and their main claims in conversation with one another

makes a link between the summary of your authors’ arguments and your own argument (they say/I say)

develops an "I say" (THESIS and CLAIMS + EVIDENCE) as a result of engaging with, understanding, summarizing, and analyzing the arguments of what "they say"

includes relevant quotations and proper citations