

Reading Synthesis

The reading synthesis is one of the major assignments for this class. It is worth 15 points or 15% of your final grade. You will be given a reading, and over the weekend, you will be expected to read it carefully in order to fully understand it, summarize it, and add your interpretations or opinion about it.

You will be able to choose what kind of reading you will do from several categories:

- Short Story
- Creative Non-Fiction
- Historical/Biographical Essay
- Opinion Article

After you have read the article and are sure you understand it well, you will then summarize it. Your summary should be several sentences long and should include all of the important information from your reading. It will be a combination of paraphrase and summary as we've done in class. As such, it should be entirely in your own words and not in the words of your author.

The last part of your synthesis will be your opinions or interpretations of the text. These can include:

- What do I think the author means?
- What do I think the author is saying indirectly? What hidden meanings might the reading have?
- Are there any passages that can have more than one meaning?
- What evidence does the author use to support his or her opinion? Is that evidence good? Why or why not?
- Is the author's opinion reasonable? Why or why not?
- Do you agree with the author's opinion? Why or why not?

In your opinions and interpretations, try to use pieces from the reading to support your ideas.

Your synthesis should be two paragraphs (one summary/one interpretation and opinion) totaling a minimum of 1 page, typed on a computer, using 12 point font or the equivalent (as a note, your font should be about the same size as the font on this handout).

You will choose your type of reading today. Readings will be given on June 3rd and will be due on June 8th.