



**STUDYDADDY**

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**ENGL 102 Synthesis**  
**Prof. Sarah Copland**

**Due:**

Submit your assignment as a .pdf file to the appropriate assignment dropbox on mēskanās before 11.59pm on Friday, April 5, 2024. ***Note that late assignments—accruing a late penalty of 5% per day—will only be accepted until Monday, April 8, 2024 because of the English Department’s policy that all coursework must be submitted on or before the last day of classes for the semester.***

**Instructions:**

- Choose **one** of the following questions and write a 900-word (minimum 850 words; maximum 950 words) synthesis essay. For each question, you will be asked to choose three essays from a specific section of the anthology *Bad Ideas about Writing* as your three research sources. You should engage with these three sources and with your own experiences as a writer (in this course and in other academic and non-academic contexts) to answer the question.
  1. What is good writing? Choose any three essays from the section “Bad Ideas about What Good Writing Is.”
  2. What makes a writer a good writer? Choose any three essays from the section “Bad Ideas about Who Good Writers Are.”
  3. How important are style, usage, and grammar in writing? Choose any three essays from the section “Bad Ideas about Style, Usage, and Grammar.”
- You will find the readings for this assignment in the “Synthesis Assignment” sub-folder in the “Readings” folder on mēskanās.
- Think of your synthesis essay as a document you could give to someone who is curious about the question you are tackling and wants to learn about current research in that area and how you are engaging with that research to make your own argument in response to the question.
- Use your introductory paragraph to introduce the topic and state your thesis: your argument in response to the question.
- Organize your essay, dividing your thesis into several sub-arguments, one per paragraph, with argumentative topic sentences at the beginning of each paragraph.
- Use your body paragraphs to support your thesis. Ensure that you are engaging with multiple sources (the three essays and your own experiences as a writer) throughout your essay. Don’t dedicate one paragraph to each of your sources, as doing so does not constitute a synthesis. Ensure that every claim you make is substantiated with evidence and that every piece of evidence you use is being mentioned in support of a claim (no claims without evidence; no evidence without claims).
- Whenever you quote or paraphrase a specific part of one of your sources, cite the source using MLA-style in-text (parenthetical) citations.
- Include an MLA works cited page with three entries (for the three essays you have selected).

- Ensure that the entire assignment is formatted in MLA style (appropriately formatted page numbers, information in the top left-hand corner of the first page, double spacing, indentation of paragraphs' first lines, 1" margins, etc.).
- Give your essay a title that captures its thesis or central insight.
- *Important note:* I am asking that you not consult online resources or any other prohibited aids as you prepare your assignments. Instead, please use the essays themselves, your own brains, and me (and, if you wish, MacEwan's Writing Centre) as your sole other resource: if you have any questions or concerns as you undertake your work, ask me. I am always happy to help students. There is no reason whatsoever that you would need to go online or to consult with anyone other than me or MacEwan's Writing Centre for anything in connection with this assignment; doing so constitutes a contravention of MacEwan's academic integrity policy.

### **More Information on MLA-Style Page Formatting:**

- Upper left-hand corner of the first page only:  
Your name, e.g., Jane Doe  
Professor Sarah Copland  
ENGL 102 AS\_\_ (your section number)  
April 5, 2024  
Word count: 912 words
- Title on the first line, centered (not italicized or in boldface or quotation marks)
- Double-spaced
- 12-pt. font in Times New Roman or Arial
- 1" margins on all sides
- Page numbers and student last name in the top right-hand corner of every page (e.g., Doe 1, Doe 2, etc.)
- Text justified left: meaning that the text is aligned on the left-hand margin, not both left and right margins (as in newspaper and magazine formatting, for example)
- No folders, covers, or title pages

### **Notes and Drafts:**

Please remember to keep all your notes and drafts. I may ask to see them. If you write your summary from start to finish on your computer, please save versions of the draft periodically (renaming the file "Draft 1" and "Draft 2," for example) so that I can see how your work has progressed.



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