

### **Research – Synthesis Assignment**

Your task is to create your own “research” assignment based on the AP English Language synthesis prompt. You will compile five to seven documents on a topic of your choice. The topic must be of a debatable nature. For example, you might want to focus on whether or not the United States should pay for college for all of its citizens or whether or not high school students should be required to perform community service in order to graduate. The documents must represent both sides of the topic. You will also be required to answer the question that you pose using APA citation.

Checklist:

- Select a “debatable” topic upon which to base your assignment.
- Compile six to eight appropriate documents that represent both sides of your argument.
- Create a coversheet modeled on the AP English Language synthesis prompt. Each of your documents should be listed on this cover sheet along with your guiding question.
- Write a two to three page, typed response to your guiding question. Be sure to cite at least three of the sources from your compilation.
- Your collection of documents and your response are due on Friday, June 3.
- APA citation is required.
- All documents must be neatly arranged; response must be typed.

You have four weeks to complete this assignment. Budget your time. Depending on your AP schedule, you will have two, three, or four class days in the library to hunt up documents. All other work must be completed outside of class. The New York Times “Room for Debate” section is a good place to start your hunt. This assignment is worth 100 points.

“Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.”

— Nathaniel Hawthorne