

Argumentative Synthesis Assignment

Assignment

Write an argumentative synthesis by citing from at least 2 of the following articles and essays that we have read and discussed in class.

- “DNA as Destiny” by David Duncan in *Science and Society*
- “My Little Brother on Drugs” by Jenny Everett in *Science and Society*
- “Designer Babies” by Sharon Begley in *Science and Society*
- “The Year of the Clone” by Peter Singer in *Science and Society*
- “Study Doubles Genetic Factors Linked to Cancers” by Carolyn Johnson in *The Boston Globe*
- “A Push to Tell Patients Much More” by Carolyn Johnson in *The Boston Globe*

I expect that you will only consult the above listed sources for this essay. If you want to consult other sources, you must first get my permission.

An argumentative paper requires you to argue a side of a debatable topic. Unlike the explanatory synthesis, here you will take a position on an issue and defend it; like the explanatory synthesis, you will need to draw on your skills in summary, critique, and the integration of sources. You must develop an argumentative thesis statement and a logical organizational structure to successfully write this essay. The argumentative thesis also brings together different texts in order to develop (define, analyze, explain, prove, demonstrate) the argument. Unlike an argumentative paper in which the student may identify their own supporting points and examples, an argumentative synthesis requires that the student start with the sources and synthesize their key supporting points and examples in order to support the position that the student wants to argue.

Word length: 700-1000 words

Format

- Use paper clips to attach pages. You may use both sides of the page. **Do not staple.**
- Use 12 point font, **double-spaced.**
- Put page numbers on your essay if there is more than 1 page and write your name on each page.
- Please do not use a title page.

Essay topic

You will take a position on a controversial issue regarding DNA analysis and/or engineering that focuses on any of the following issues:

- Risks in intervention vs. probability that a disease may develop
- Economic factors
- Treating real diseases vs. social conditions
- Effects on the future

Remember that your thesis must be specific, or narrowly defined. Stating that you agree or disagree with genetic engineering is too general a thesis, and will not allow you to explore this issue in depth. You may also choose to focus on another issue, but please come talk to me beforehand.

Due dates

Intro and thesis	April 11/12
Outline	April 16/17
First draft	April 18/19 (Both hard copy and electronic copy on Blackboard)
Final draft	April 23/24 (Both hard copy and electronic copy on Blackboard)

Documenting your sources

Document your sources using MLA formatting. You will do this by crediting sources within the body of the synthesis, and then providing full citation information in a list of "Works Cited" at the end. When you first introduce an author in your essay, you must identify the title of their essay and the author's full name. Then you can simply cite their last names for later references in the body of the essay.

Suggested steps for planning your essay

1. Review each essay and identify its thesis and the key ideas that develop and support its thesis.
2. Examine evidence and reasoning used to support each key idea.
3. Identify key ideas that are related between the essays so you can analyze them side by side. Note: It is important to realize that it's not necessary for each article to cover the same key ideas. You are still able to use a key idea in your paper that is only mentioned in one of your essays.
4. Start to write your draft (see below).

Suggested steps for writing your essay

1. After analyzing the essays, formulate a theme/thesis.
2. Identify key information (supporting points, details and examples) from your sources that will support your thesis.
3. Develop a plan (pre-write), based upon your theme/thesis.
4. Draft your paper.
5. Document your sources
6. Revise your paper and verify that your argument is coherent and that there are no grammar and spelling errors

Suggested structure for organizing your essay

Introduction (1 paragraph)

Explanation or background of issue (0-1 paragraphs)

Support for your argument (3-4 paragraphs)

Conclusion (1 paragraph)

Introduction

- Introduce the topic or theme
- State your thesis

Explanation or background of topic

- Summarize and paraphrase from the essays in order to provide the reader an explanation or background to the topic. (You must cite the essays)

Support for your argument by synthesizing from the sources

- Summarize, paraphrase and quote supporting evidence
- Provide various types of evidence and motivational appeals
 - Appeal to the reader's logic by using facts, experts, personal stories, examples
 - Appeal to the reader's emotions
- You should present and respond to at least one counter argument. This demonstrates that you are aware of the other side of the argument and prepared to answer it.
 - Introduce your argument
 - Introduce counter argument
 - Refute the counter argument
 - Restate your argument

Conclusion

- This is your final opportunity to convince your audience of your position.