

Sources: 4-5 pages, MLA documentation.

Develop a synthesis essay (Summarize, organize by common subtopics, and blend ideas) that explores the topic of Nature and nature writing using three of the following source essays (use Oates's essay and two others):

- "Against Nature" – Oates
- "Shadows and Vistas" – Haines
- "The Nature Writer's Dilemma" -- Hay
- "Forever Virgin..." – Perrin
- "Green Man" – Fowles

Since your audience is the academic community, tailor your diction accordingly. Assume that your readers have not read the above articles and essays.

The Process of Synthesis (as modified from *The Cortland Composition Handbook*)

In this essay, you need to summarize essential information drawn from your sources. More than a summary of a series of articles or essays, however, your essay needs to "explain clearly, accurately, and thoroughly to your readers how each source writer develops his or her views on your thesis and each of its subtopics" (Cortland Handbook). You need to methodically assimilate and blend together (synthesize) information from these sources to support your theme and the common points that you develop in a coherent and organized fashion. While the process of comparison and contrast can be usefully employed as you move back and forth between source essays, your goal—and end product—is synthesis.

Use signal phrases (lead-ins) whenever possible to announce source material. After source material (summary, direct quotes, paraphrase), use MLA-formatted parenthetical citations (Troyka, Ch. 34)

As you plan and develop your essay, refer to Troyka's *Handbook for Writers*, the *Cortland Composition Handbook* (reading and examining the structure of the examples provided), class notes, and the synthesis hand-outs for information on the process of synthesis and essay development. Your essay will be 1200-1400 words in length (3-1/2 - 5 pages of text).

The final page of your essay will be a "Works Cited" page in which you record information about your sources **in MLA format**. To construct and format the "Works Cited" page, see Troyka, Ch. 33.

Suggested Schedule and checklist: Essay assigned

Notes for all 3 sources, synthesis charts, outline with thesis, Works Cited page:

1st Draft: suggested target date: Oct. 30

2nd Draft: Nov. 6

Tues., Nov. 13: Submission Draft due

(Folder should include notes for all three sources, synthesis charts, complete word-processed outline with thesis, submission draft and word-processed earlier draft). A draft without a Works Cited page is incomplete.

Important: As soon as you begin preparing notes, keep all related materials in a single folder.

In this folder, bring work in progress, including all notes, worksheets, outlines, drafts, charts, handouts, and evaluations, to each class, conference, and peer editor meeting. I want to see both your progress and your process throughout all stages of the assignment. From the day the essay is assigned, I will accept no work not in a dedicated, labeled folder. Your adherence to this requirement will impact the final evaluation of your essay.

As you prepare for and undertake the development of this essay, you are expected to familiarize yourself with the synthesis process by using the reference material (Troyka, *Cortland Composition*

Handbook, and hand-outs, including charts and procedures). If you have questions about planning your essay, I expect you to bring them up in class. Conference time can be best spent with your word-processed work in progress.

Caveats:

- Do not uses phrases like "In today's society, "in today's day and age," "we as society," "throughout history" or other weak, vague generalizations. Don't use the pronouns "I" or "you."
- Avoid clichés, street talk, jargon, and lazy speech. Be specific and engaging. Reach for the right word; use the dictionary and thesaurus. Watch out, however, that you do not use inflated, overblown, stilted language.
- Your language should represent you and your thinking in an academic world. Eschew both speech that is too informal and conversational, and speech that is too technical, obscure, and abstract. Communicate concisely and effectively.
- Don't take shortcuts in the essay-development process. As always with source material, you should prepare substantial, organized and reflective notes before you begin chart-making, outlining, and working on the first draft. I will look at no draft not accompanied by full preparation materials. Keep this assignment in your folder and refer to frequently.

Supplementary Requirements and Expectations

Mechanical Requirements

- 4 to 5 pages; Use a standard default font (Times New Roman, Helvetica, Arial); font size 12.
- Do not use a cover page.
- Title your essay. Center title above beginning paragraph, no quotation marks, no underline, no larger or boldface font.
- Use approximately 1" margins, double space between lines.
- At the top left-hand corner of first page only, record your name, Essay #2, CPN 101, and Section #. This block only should be single-spaced
- Number all pages, including the Works Cited page.
- Your last name and page number should appear in the upper right-hand corner of each page.
- Staple together pages of each draft, with the Work Cited page being the last page. Number all paragraphs.
- Submit in a plain vanilla manila folder labeled on the tab with your name, section number, essay number. In the folder, include all components: notes, worksheet, charts, outline, drafts (identified as Draft #1, etc.), evaluations. Your final submission and the submission evaluation should be on top. Bring work in progress to each class and conference in this folder.
- Use proper grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and other conventions of good academic writing. Yes, spelling counts. Write with a dictionary nearby. Do not use the computer's grammar checker; its suggestions are often incorrect and ill-advised.

Important: In order to get a satisfactory overall evaluation for this essay, you must satisfactorily complete and submit all components of the assignment, including notes, worksheets, outlines, any required charts or organizing schemes, prior drafts and any assigned evaluations. Careless, sloppy, or insufficient work will not be accepted. Take pride in your work—stay organized and put your best effort into this essay.

Reading has two faces, looks in two directions. One direction is back, toward the source and original content of the signs we are deciphering. The other direction is forward, based on the textual situation of the person doing the reading.

– Robert Scholes (*Protocols of Reading 7*)