Researched Synthesis Essay Grading Rubric

	A	В	С	D	F
Thesis	 Strong arguable and clear thesis in intro Introduces compelling arguments in a sophisticated manner 	 Clear arguable thesis in intro. Thesis may not be presented strongly or eloquently. Introduces a precise claim that is relatively arguable 	 Identifiable thesis but rather vague Introduces a claim that may not truly be arguable 	 Hard to find or out of place thesis. Emerging claim that suggests a vague position 	 Missing thesis Claim is unidentifiable
Evidence/ Sources	Provides relevant sources Sources support argument convincingly Well integrated sources Clear, insightful analysis Skillfully addresses counterclaims Evidence/ quotation choices are particularly apt	Solid, but somewhat weaker than an A paper: more examples needed, more specific evidence needed, better integration needed Evidence analyzed and explained, but perhaps not quite as well as an A paper. Fairly addresses counterclaims Evidence/quotation choices are appropriate	 Adequate, but rather weak: more examples needed, more specific evidence needed, more relevant evidence needed Evidence usually analyzed and explained, but perhaps not always well. Analysis is often repetitious Addresses counterclaims Evidence/quote choices could be better; better evidence exists. 	Weak or flawed: tends towards summary instead of true evidence & analysis; not enough evidence; evidence does not prove claim Little analysis and/or explanation. Unclearly addresses counterclaims Evidence chosen without much apparent thought; Evidence is not credible	Generalizations or summary instead of analysis and textual evidence Lacks counterclaims Not enough evidence, inappropriate evidence
Organization	 Logical paragraph ordering Order matches up with thesis Smooth transitions 	 Formulaic and stiff or stilted organization of argument Rougher transitions 	 Minor problems in progression of argument Some paragraphs out of order/not matching thesis Rough transitions 	 Illogical or arbitrary progression of argument Paragraphs out of order/not matching thesis Missing transitions 	 Illogical progression of argument No paragraphs Missing transitions
Format / Mechanics	Few to no grammatical or spelling errors Correct MLA format in works cited page and in parenthetical citations	 minor grammatical or spelling errors (agreement, apostrophes, etc.) Mostly correct MLA format 	 repeated grammatical or spelling errors: some major (comma splices, fragments, etc.) Incorrect MLA format 	10 or more grammatical or spelling errors: some major (comma splices, fragments, etc.) Incorrect MLA format or missing citations/works cited	Multiple grammatical or spelling errors: many major (comma splices, fragments, etc.) No attempt at MLA format or works cited
Language	 Clear, coherent prose Good, specific word choices Varying sentence lengths and structures 	 Clear, coherent prose Slightly less precise word choices Sentence lengths and structures vary somewhat 	 Overwrought or confusing prose Multiple problematic word choices including Sentence lengths and structures very basic or repetitive 	 Language hinders understanding of argument Many problematic word choices Sentence lengths and structures very basic 	Language erratic and hinders argument