

Synthesis Essay (*AP Lang*)

(Dr. Canino – AP Lang)

To continue with our practice for the AP exam, your next test grade will be a synthesis essay that you will work on independently and turn in to me on Archie. For this essay, you will respond to the prompt below, and then locate three credible sources on your own, and then synthesize the information into an essay where you develop a position. The prompt you must respond to is below:

Ever since its debut in the late 1990s, social media has revolutionized the way human beings communicate with each other. On the one hand it allows people who live miles away from one another to remain connected, and keeps loved ones in touch all over the world. On the other hand, however, social media can often bring out negative aspects in people as well, making people more angry and irritable, or lowering people's self esteem.

Write an essay in which you develop your position on the overall effect – positive, negative, or otherwise – that social media has on society today. Synthesize material from at least three outside sources to support your position, and cite them appropriately in your essay.

Your essay must be typed, in MLA format, with in-text citations and a Works Cited page. It must have an introduction, conclusion, and at least one body paragraph (though I strongly recommend multiple).

Your essay will be due on Archie on **Monday, May 6th at Midnight.**

Synthesis Essay Rubric

(Formal Written Version - Includes Grammar & MLA Formatting Points)

Introduction Paragraph	Total: ___ / 2pts
<i>You <u>introduce the ideas that you'll discuss</u> in your essay, with background information when relevant or appropriate</i>	___ / 2pts

Thesis Statement / Main Claim	Total: ___ / 2pts
<i>Your thesis <u>directly responds to the prompt</u></i>	___ / 1pts
<i>Your thesis <u>takes a defensible position</u>, a statement of educated opinion that must be supported with evidence. It does not simply state that “there are pros and cons to both sides” of an issue, with no additional detail</i>	___ / 1pts

Evidence & Commentary	Total: ___ / 8pts
<i>Your argument is <u>organized as a line of reasoning</u> that the reader can follow</i>	___ / 2pts
<i>Your claims are <u>supported with evidence from at least three outside sources</u> that you locate and cite correctly in your essay.</i>	___ / 2pts
<i>Your evidence includes <u>multiple supporting claims</u>, not just one</i>	___ / 2pts
<i>You consistently explain <u>how your chosen evidence supports</u> (and is related to) <u>your thesis</u></i>	___ / 2pts

Conclusion Paragraph	Total: ___ / 2pts
<i>Your conclusion briefly <u>restates your thesis</u> from the introduction, and sums up your overall ideas in your essay</i>	___ / 2pts

Sophistication	Total: ___ / 2pts
<i>Your argument is <u>especially well-developed</u>, and highlights various complex angles and perspectives on the issue at hand</i>	___ / 1pts
<i>You consistently <u>write in a style that's engaging, interesting, and persuasive</u></i>	___ / 1pts

Grammar, Formatting & Overall Polish	Total: ___ / 4pts
<i>Your paper is <u>in MLA format</u>, with double spacing, 12-Point Times New Roman font, an MLA-style header, a title for your essay, 1” margins and a correctly formatted <u>works cited page</u>.</i>	___ / 2pts
<i>Your paper is relatively <u>free of grammar mistakes</u>. If they are present, they are minor and easily forgotten</i>	___ / 2pts

Total Points

_____/ **20 pts**
_____/ **100%**