

# Pre-AP English 10: Synthesis Essay Outline



# Opening Paragraph

- **The Hook:** Begin with something that will get your audience's attention and cause them to begin considering the topic.
  - Rhetorical Question:
    - Do you ever stop to wonder why...?
  - Quote or definition:
    - X defines culture as...
  - Anecdote:
    - Once, while traveling in Mexico, I made the mistake of...
  - What if:
    - Imagine a world where everyone's perspective is exactly the same regardless...
- **Context/Background:** Provide the information necessary for your reader to understand the topic.
  - Acknowledge the importance/relevance of the topic
  - Define and explain specific terminology
- **Thesis:** Your thesis needs to provide a statement that clearly answers the prompt: to what extent does one's culture inform the way one views others and the world?
  - Example: Without a doubt, a person's culture significantly impacts how one views other people and the world around them as evidenced by the prominent role differences in cultural perspectives play in generating internal and external conflict.

# Body Paragraph 1

- 1. Topic Sentence:** Begin with a topic sentence. Topic sentences are general statement indicating what the paragraph will be about. A topic sentence should not be textual evidence.
  - Example: *Everyone struggles with internal conflicts as they try to decide what is right or wrong or how they can find their place in society.*
    - This paragraph will focus on internal conflicts
- 2. Context:** Provide context to build up to your evidence
  - Example: *Frida Kahlo was a very talented painter, but it was her husband Diego Rivera who was famous. She had to follow him as he moved about the globe painting his now famous murals. Oftentimes, she felt trapped in these strange, foreign lands and wanted to return home to Mexico, a land with which she felt a powerful cultural connection, but to do so would mean leaving her husband behind.*
- 3. Evidence Source #1:** Continue with evidence that relates to the topic of the paragraph and supports the thesis.
  - Example: *In her painting *Standing on the Borderline Between Mexico and the United States*, Kahlo's internal struggle is very evident. She paints herself between two halves of the canvas: Mexico one side and... (citation).*
- 4. Analysis:** Always follow-up your evidence with analysis that explains how the evidence supports your thesis.
  - Example: *The details of Kahlo's work clearly show a strong affinity for Mexico. She views America as a cold, industrial land void of nature, culture, and history. It's obvious to any observer that she is conflicted, trapped in one culture and longing to be back in her own comfort zone.*
- 5. Transition:** You need a transition to indicate you are moving on to another source of evidence.
  - Example: *furthermore, in addition, additionally, likewise*
- 6. Now do 2, 3, and 4 all of this again with your next source.**

# Body Paragraph 2

- 1. Topic Sentence:** Begin with a topic sentence. Topic sentences are general statements indicating what the paragraph will be about. A topic sentence should not be textual evidence.
  - Example: **Everyday, either directly or indirectly, we experience conflict with others.**
    - This paragraph will focus on external conflicts
- 2. Context:** Provide context to build up to your evidence
  - Example: **Oftentimes the people we come into conflict with are the ones closest to us, our family members. Parents and children can often drift apart as the child grows and adopts a cultural perspective different from that of a parent.**
- 3. Evidence Source #1:** Continue with evidence that relates to the topic of the paragraph and supports the thesis.
  - Example: **In Alice Walker's short story, *Everyday Use*,... (citation).**
- 4. Analysis:** Always follow-up your evidence with analysis that explains how the evidence supports your thesis.
  - Example: **Dee's attitude towards her mother and sister...**
- 5. Transition:** You need a transition to indicate you are moving on to another source of evidence.
  - Example: **furthermore, in addition, additionally, likewise**
- 6. Now do 2, 3, and 4 all of this again with your next source.**

# Conclusion Paragraph

- 1. Transition:** Begin with a transition word or phrase that indicates you are bringing your essay to a close.
  - Example: **In conclusion; Finally; In summary**
- 2. Summarize:** Use key words and concepts from your opening paragraph to summarize your main points and thesis.
- 3. Close:** Conclude with a statement or observation about the broader implications of the topic or relate it to current events.