**Gatsby Synthesis Essay**

**Prompt**: Why is *The Great Gatsby* the great American novel?

In a well-developed essay, you must create an argumentative thesis (assertion) about a theme/issue in *The Great Gatsby* and synthesize it with an issue or theme that is still prevalent today.

Some issues you may want to consider:

* Treatment of women
* Gender roles
* Wealth/materialism
* The American Dream
* Time
* Racism
* Envy
* Goals/dreams (in general)

As far as sources go, you need:

* **Two** direct quotes from *The Great Gatsby*
* **Two** reliable and relevant sources showing the current issue you choose
  + You need to have **at least one** direct quote from each of the sources you choose

**TYPES OF SOURCES YOU MAY USE:**

* Current event news articles (from noteworthy news outlets)
* Primary sources (song lyrics, poems, contemporary novels, etc…)
* Social Issues resources on media center database

**What does a synthesis paper do?**

• Integrates (weaves together) information and ideas gathered from multiple sources

• Uses this information and these ideas to elaborate and support an *assertion* of an opinion (this means you need an ARGUABLE THESIS)

• Develops assertion (thesis statement) through elaboration/analysis

• Employs linking devices and transitions to lead the reader through the logic of the exposition of the assertion

• Commands the reader’s attention

• Employs paraphrases and direct quotations from reliable and meaningful sources to lend authority to assertions

• Demonstrates extensive knowledge of a topic and extensive thinking about the topic

**ASSIGNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

1. Turn in a print copy of your essay and an MLA Works Cited page
2. Printed copies of both researched documents **AND** corresponding source notes (this will be handed out when you begin looking for sources)
3. Use turnitin.com before the hour it is due (submit PRINTED receipt in class)

**ESSAY REQUIREMENTS**

1. Must reference and demonstrate knowledge of 3 different sources (*Gatsby* plus two others)
2. Each body paragraph will feature evidence from *Gatsby* and at least one other text
3. Body paragraphs must *analyze* evidence in terms of the thesis; analysis of evidence must be fully developed
4. Must include in-text MLA citations appropriately (direct quote or paraphrase)
5. Use MLA headers

**ESSAY FORMAT REQUIREMENTS**

Introductory Paragraph

Use an opening interest device

Introduce the three texts you will analyze

Create a thesis that is a direct, argumentative answer to an Essay Question

Body Paragraph 1

Use a topic sentence that supports your thesis

Use specific details (anecdotes or quotes) that illustrate your argument

\*(1 quote from Gatsby/1 from outside source)

Explain the connection between evidence and topic sentence/thesis

Body Paragraph 2

Use a topic sentence that supports your thesis

Use specific details (anecdotes or quotes) that illustrate your argument

\*(1 quote from Gatsby/1 from outside source)

Explain the connection between evidence and topic sentence/thesis

Concluding Paragraph

Restate the thesis at the beginning of the conclusion—IN DIFFERENT WORDS

Come to a realization related to general ideas/knowledge of the Jazz Age*.* In other words, write a thesis extension, showing the importance of topic you’ve explored.

**Big Hint: Don’t summarize sources in your essay! Tell me only things that prove your thesis! Assume the reader of your essay has already read your sources.**