**STANDARDS FOR SYNTHESIS ESSAYS**

1. You must address the question in the essay prompt, using three texts (*Gatsby* plus two others) as your evidence to support your original argument.

2. Original thought and insightful analysis are required to earn an A

3. Observe advice to writers below.

1. **Organization**

* Write a three part essay.
* Introduce the three texts and names of authors you will reference in the introductory paragraph. Briefly provide useful background information (if applicable) on them in the introductory paragraph.
* State your thesis clearly and make sure that it reflects the focus of your essay.
* Create a new paragraph in a logical place, using a transition.
* In a synthesis, you are comparing more than one text against your knowledge about the Jazz Age. It is advisable to compare two texts or even three in a body paragraph. You may also discuss a text by itself, comparing it to your knowledge of the Jazz Age. Additionally, you may show contrasts between the texts.
* Begin body paragraphs with a topic sentence that makes a supportive claim and indicates which texts will be referenced within.
* End with a meaningful conclusion rather than repeating information/ideas from the paragraphs.

1. **Content**

* Use specific examples from the texts and your background knowledge.
* Interpret those examples to reveal the argument suggested in your thesis statement, creating a vivid link between evidence and argument.
  + Analyze by asking the questions: HOW and WHY?
* You may use quotes. If you include them, you must use MLA citation revealing author’s last name and page/line numbers. Follow this example: (Fitzgerald 165). If no page number exists, you do not need to include it in your citation.
* Quotes should not retell events, but demonstrate particularly interesting, vivid, unique, or apt ideas.
* Your analysis of examples must be as clear and present.

1. **Style**

* Provide appropriate transitions between sentences, ideas and paragraphs. Use transitional words to help, and think critically about order of ideas.
* Write only in present tense.
* Express ideas clearly and simply, rather than using overly complex phrasing.
* Avoid informal language and slang.
* Use precise rather than vague word choice.
* Avoid passive voice, making the subject as much as possible. For example: He grabbed for the ball vs. The ball was grabbed for by him.
* Write in the 3rd person. Do not use 1st person (“I believe…”) or 2nd person (“you should notice…”) in a formal essay.

1. **Grammar, Proofreading, and Punctuation**

* Create a variety in sentence length and type (simple, compound, etc.)
* Correct fragments, run-ons, and comma splices.
* Correct errors in subject/verb agreement, homophones, plurals, possessives, comma usage, spelling, and so on.
* Get a parent or friend to proofread.