Garth, Smith 1

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11 LC

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**Writing Exercise**

Now that we have developed a deeper definition for Transcendentalism and read some Transcendentalist texts, we can go back to the film, *Into the Wild* and discuss the transcendentalist traits that Chris/Alex exhibits. With that, you will write an analytical synthesis paragraph.

**What is synthesis?**

In order to successfully synthesize, you must combine examples and insights from multiple sources to create an argument. You are going to use the transcendentalist texts we read and *Into the Wild* to create an interesting argument or perspective (your thesis).

**A synthesis is not a summary; you are still creating an argument.** It isan opportunity to create new knowledge out of already existing knowledge. You combine, “synthesize,” the information in your

sources to develop an argument. Your thesis statement becomes a claim that presents your perspective and identifies the new knowledge that you will create through comparing and contrasting different texts.

**Prompt:** Would Emerson and Thoreau find Chris McCandless to be a worthy Transcendentalist? Why or why not?

 Questions to consider:

* Can you connect Chris’s actions to the tenets of Transcendentalism? Think about his thoughts/actions/speech…
* How do his actions/thoughts/speech not coincide with tenets of Transcendentalism?
* Do you think his actions were noble? Foolish?
* Is there anything to be admired or reprehended in Chris McCandless?

Requirements:

* Parts of a Paragraph are Shown (Topic Sentence, Introduce Evidence, Evidence, Citation, Analysis of Evidence, Closing Sentence)
* Typed Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced, MLA Header (see example above)
* Begin with a topic sentence stating your assertion to the prompt (this will function as the thesis)
* Evidence is analyzed and linked back to topic sentence
* Use at least two pieces of evidence from different texts (from transcendentalist texts and from *Into the Wild*).
* Evidence must be properly cited MLA style quote
	+ Ex. (Thoreau 380) or (Emerson 367) or (*Into the Wild*)
* Create a works cited for the sources you use