Lesson Plan

Overview: This in-class activity introduces 1st or 2nd year students to the concept of synthesis and illustrates how to synthesize information in a paragraph through use of student writing.

Goal: After this activity students will be comfortable with the concept of synthesis and be able to recognize synthesis in their own writing and the writing of others.

Materials: PowerPoint file (with notes for presenter) or word document handout – either or both can be used. There are multiple student writing examples included in the PowerPoint, choose the one that works best for your class.

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| Minutes | Activity | Outcome |
| 0-1 | Ask students ‘What is synthetic writing?’. Provide definition (see handout, PowerPoint, or provide your own). | Introduce students to the idea of synthesis. |
| 1-2 | Introduce students to the components of synthetic writing (topic sentence, evidence from different sources, conclusion). | Introduce students to the components of synthetic writing. |
| 2-3 | Present students with student writing example. | Orient students to writing example. |
| 3-4 | Ask student to assess whether or not this is effective synthetic writing. If not, what is missing?  Potential prompts:  -What is the topic?  -Do we know anything about the topic?  -What is the conclusion?  -What is the evidence?  -How does the evidence support the conclusion? | Assess efficacy of synthetic writing. |
| 4-5 | Briefly survey students and establish that this paragraph lacks one or more of the following: a topic sentence, a conclusion, or a variety of sources. It is a poor example of synthetic writing. | Clarification of why this is a poor example of synthetic writing. Reinforce the components of effective synthesis. |