# Synthesis Assignment

## Prompt

For this assignment, you will be looking at how four different sources answer one central question. You will compare and contrast their answers and, using the evidence you have, answer the question for yourself. The question you will be exploring is this: **How do the habits of society change?**

## Sources

* *The Power of Habit* by Charles Duhigg
* “What Successful Movements Have in Common” by Greg Satell
* “How Change Happens: Why Some Social Movements Succeed While Others Don’t” by Leslie R. Crutchfield
* One internet article you research independently (we will discuss how to do this in class)

## Preparation

To prepare to write this essay, review your reading logs and other reading activities as well as the pre-writing activities we completed in class and as homework.

## Essay Structure

* Put the question at the top of your essay, where the title usually goes.
* Immediately begin with the first source. Then move onto the next sources. You should explain how the four sources would answer the question using quotations and paraphrases to support your answer. **You must use at least one quotation or paraphrase from each source**.
* Then, you should have one or two paragraphs comparing and contrasting the sources’ responses. Where do your sources agree? Disagree? How do they see the question differently?
* Finally, conclude your essay by answering the question yourself. Be sure to explain how the sources you used have informed and shaped your opinion.
* This essay should include a Works Cited page for the article you researched independently **only**.

## Length

Your final draft should be three to four full pages, typed and double spaced (approximately 750 - 1000 words).

## Due Dates

Rough draft due in class Thursday, December 5

Final draft due in class Tuesday, December 10 (the day of our final exam)

On Tuesday, December 10, please turn in these items, stapled together:

* Rough draft (handwritten is okay)
* Peer review comments
* Final draft (typed, double spaced, 12-point font)
* Rubric

# Synthesis Rubric

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Description of Requirements** | **Point Value** | **Score and Instructor’s Notes** |
| **Use of Sources** | Each source addresses the central question and the source’s position is clearly and accurately characterized, withat least one paraphrase or quotation per source. | 50 |  |
| **Synthesis** | Writer identifies meaningful points of intersection and divergence among the sources used, and uses the sources to help them answer the question. | 50 |  |
| **Organization** | Essay is well organized with an introduction that narrows to focus on the main point, body paragraphs that support the writer’s main point, and conclusion. | 20 |  |
| **Mechanics** | Writer has checked  spelling, capitalization, and other conventions.  Writer uses MLA format.  In-text citations are provided in MLA format. | 10 |  |

**Total**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ /130

# Extra Credit: Learning Center/Writing Center Conference (5 pts)

Writing Conference Mentor/Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Writing Conference Mentor/Instructor’s Initials:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date and time of your visit: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this portion before your conference:**

What specific questions do you have for the mentor/instructor?

**Complete this portion after your conference:**

Identify the specific elements of the writing assignment you discussed in your conference.

Explain what you learned from your conference.