

Due Date: _____

Synthesis Paper: What is the Value of Reading and Writing?

Over the past four weeks we have read a couple of texts: an excerpt from Mark Mathabane's autobiography, *Kaffir Boy*, Richard Rodriguez's essay "Strange Tools," and Malcolm X's essay "Learning to Read." All three of these writers convey the importance of literacy, but behind their individual discoveries are great struggles.

Your task is to write a multi-paragraph essay that identifies and analyzes the positions of these authors. Trace the personal shifts these authors experience and explain what these shifts reveal about the value of reading and writing. Show how your personal experiences and beliefs align with or contradict what the cited authors say.

Conclude your paper with a statement of significance—What is the value of reading and writing? Why should we consider what others say? Why is education important? In what ways do we become educated?

Synthesize the Content of Several Sources: Reading 2.4
Write Analytical Essays: Writing 2.3

Paper Requirements:

- **Length and Structure**
 - Develop a minimum of 4 paragraphs.
 - Write a 2 page paper
 - Include an original title

- **Source Material**
 - Pull from a minimum of three sources
 - Incorporate a minimum of four in-text citations (utilize proper MLA parenthetical citation format)

- **MLA Format**
 - Provide page numbers
 - Double space the entire paper
 - Set font size to 12. Use "Times New Roman" (or similar)

Learning Objectives: Successful papers will...

- identify the text, the author, and other relevant source information. (R 2.2)
- identify the authors' central claims. (R 2.8)
- develop and support a coherent thesis/ claim.
- synthesize, summarize, and paraphrase ideas in texts. (R 2.4, WS 1.5)
- establish a logical sequence of ideas. (WS 1.1)
- extend ideas presented in sources through original analysis. (R 2.5, WA 2.3b)
- incorporate source material (i.e. direct quotations, paraphrases, summaries) and utilize parenthetical citations. (WS 1.6, WS 1.7)