

Writing 2
Unit Three Assignment

A Thematic Synthesis Paper

Task: Write a four- to six-page paper that discusses a theme from the perspective of a number of sources, including readings from our text book, and a close reading of at least one poem.

Prompt: choose one of the two groups of readings below. Your thematic essay will incorporate (1) a **detailed close reading** of at least one poem, and (2) a discussion of at least **one critical piece** (noted with an asterisk). You can include your favorite poem as well, if you choose, but a detailed reading of a poem below should be included. Outside sources can be included, but are not required. The term “synthesis” indicates making connections, sometimes between rather disparate things. Weaving together multiple sources, your essay will explore a theme: an abstract concept such as justice, for example, or the repetition of some meaningful element, such as references to sight, vision, and blindness.

Audience: you will be writing for a college-level audience.

Poems and Texts on Women and Feminism

Joy Harjo, “The Woman Hanging from the 13th Floor Window”

June Jordan, “A Poem about Intelligence for My Brothers and Sisters”

Marzieh Ahmadi Oskooii, “I’m a Woman”

Maxine Hong Kingston, “No Name Woman”

Nawal El Saadawi, “Growing Up Female in Egypt”

Sappho, “Invocation to Aphrodite”

Sor Juana De La Cruz, “She Proves the Inconsistency...”

Yu Hsuan-chi, “On a Visit to Ch’ung Chen Taoist Temple”

*Simone de Beauvoir, *Women as Other*

*Amaury de Reincourt, *Women in Athens*

*Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Keynote Address, Beijing Forum on Women, 1995

Poems and Texts on Race and Oppression

Joy Harjo, “The Woman Hanging from the 13th Floor Window”

June Jordan, “A Poem about Intelligence for My Brothers and Sisters”

Pablo Neruda, “The United Fruit Co.”

Paul Laurence Dunbar, “We Wear the Mask”

*Albert Memmi, *Racism and Oppression*

*Mohandas K. Gandhi, *Satyagraha*

*Martin Luther King, Jr., *Letter from Birmingham Jail*

*Nelson Mandela, *I Am Prepared to Die*

Objectives:

- You will make connections between ideas from disparate sources.
- You will discuss the idea/s in relation to each source, as well as in relation to each other.
- You will organize your exploration of the idea/s in a clear, logical manner.
- You will come to some conclusions about the overall significance of the idea/s in relation to yourself and to the larger world.