

***Greatest Hits of American Rhetoric***  
**Synthesis Essay Assignment**  
**AP Language**

Now that you have read several of the classics of American rhetoric including “The Gettysburg Address,” Lincoln’s “Second Inaugural Address,” and Martin Luther King’s iconic pieces “I Have a Dream,” and “Letter from Birmingham Jail,” it is time to write a synthesis essay which draws several of them into a coherent, intelligent whole. For this assignment you will think about **common themes** within the texts that draw them together. These common **themes** will become the organizational backbone of the essay as you will use them to define separate body paragraphs. **Then you will analyze the strategies the writers employ to make these ideas come through more meaningfully, powerfully, and effectively.**

Follow the instructions below:

1. Minimum of 2 BPs
2. 6 chunks total, combination of 1+2 and 2+1.
3. At least one CD from at least THREE of the essays above plus at least one from an essay studied in the Age of Reason unit.
4. Each BP must have CD from at least two different sources
5. At least one 2+1 chunk required in the essay. Remember, there will be more than one CD in a 2+1 chunk, but that is still considered a single chunk, so you will actually end up employing 7+ CDs in the essay.
6. Intro and conclusion are required
7. 1250 word limit
8. Works Cited page and MLA format required.
9. Outline, first draft, peer edit, and final draft required.
10. You will submit a copy to “turnitin.com.”

NOTE: 2+1 chunks will obviously have more than one sentence of CM

NOTE: 2+1 chunks can be very effective in synthesizing since they allow you to use two different sources in the same chunk to support the same idea

NOTE: 2+1 chunks can also be very effective in showing contrast by juxtaposing two CDs in the same chunk, though this will not apply to this particular essay.