

## UNIT 2 Fiction and Synthesis

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**Composition II (Step-Ahead)**

**Paper 3 Assignment: Evaluative Synthesis/Fiction**

This paper asks that you write an evaluative synthesis covering at least two of the secondary sources that discuss one of the remaining short stories assigned for this unit (“Everyday Use,” “A Good Man is Hard to Find,” “A Worn Path,” “Hills Like White Elephants,” or “The Things They Carried”). (In other words, you get to choose between the remaining stories you wish to write about). Just like Paper 2, this paper requires that you synthesize the authors' various views under common subtopics. The goal of synthesizing is to further a reader's understanding of an issue by presenting these multiple views and also requires indicating the relationship between various experts and sources. In addition, the assignment asks that you evaluate those views while contributing your own opinion and interpretation of the story. Relate your own interpretation to the arguments presented in the synthesis while drawing upon support by referencing the story. Portions of your support for your opinion and interpretation should draw upon close reading of the story (using your explication skills). Your support for your own point of view should also develop out of an examination of the evidence and reasoning offered by the secondary sources.

\*\*Include parenthetical citation after all paraphrased and quoted material within your essay(following MLA format).

\*\*Refrain in this paper from the use of the pronoun "I" in indicating your opinions.

\*\*See [‘Evaluative Synthesis Visual Diagram’](#) Handout

### **I. Introduction:**

Using one of the introductory methods as a model, create an introduction that captures the readers' interest or is provocative. You may, of course, use materials that you find in the source links to craft this introduction. In this paper, the thesis statement may appear at the end of this introduction or in a short paragraph following the introduction which further outlines the issues involved in considering this story. As always, be sure to remain specific in your language choices while remaining general in your discussion of the ideas.

### **II. Body:**

Organize the body of the paper around one to two subtopics that the authors of the secondary sources address in their discussions of the story.

#### **a. Synthesis:**

**Attempt to identify at least one subtopic to discuss that both authors address. The remaining subtopic may consist of one author's point of view and your response and opinion.**

For each subtopic,

- State the subtopic that the paragraph will explore.

- Paraphrase each perspective on the sub-topic by referring to the authors' or author's viewpoint.
- Explain the evidence and reasoning used to support each perspective on the subtopic.
- Briefly identify the relationship between the various positions on the subtopic and explain any implications that one view might have upon another (for those subtopics that address more than one point of view).

**b. Evaluation:**

After the synthesis or summary of an author's point of view on a topic,

- Evaluate the evidence and reasoning offered for each perspective of the sub-topic through specific reference to the sources.
- Indicate which perspective or view is the more convincing and why (again through reference and support gained from the sources).

**c. Extend the Analysis**

Show your analysis skills here. In other words, are there other places in the story that you think give further proof to your claim (your thesis), in which the authors have either failed to mention?

Offer your own interpretation or opinion of the subtopic and support it through close reading of the story (the primary source) and examination of the evidence and reasoning of the secondary sources.

**III. Conclusion:**

Draft a brief conclusion that wraps up the paper, drawing together the discussion of various subtopics into a cohesive opinion and interpretation of the story (make sure that you have offered a thesis statement in the introduction that does the same in a more concise manner and in different language).

**IV. Works Cited Page:**

Include an entry for each source used in the paper (paraphrased or quoted).

**Suggested length: approximately 5 pages.**