

## DCE - Synthesis Essay

**Concept:** According to Lois Tyson, critical “Theory can help us learn to see ourselves and our world in valuable new ways” (2). Throughout this semester, students will learn the basic tenets of several literary theories. The Synthesis Essay requires that students develop a strong understanding of a single critical theory, analyze literature through this framework, and incorporate the analysis of experts into their own analysis.

### The Process:

Step One: Look at the attached table which covers the basic concepts for each school of theory. Choose a framework that best suites your three novels.

Step Two: Research and read extensively about this framework. Articles and journals can be found on the school’s databases such as JSTOR and Gale. The public library may also carry print and digital resources. (Theory)

Step Three: Research what critics have to say about your author and his/her works. (Criticism)

Step Four: As you read extensively on your author/works, take copious notes. The objective is to form thoughts, ideas, and concepts about the works. In other words, what are the experts saying about your works/author? What is the general consensus in the academic world?

Step Five: Based on your knowledge of theory, decide whether you agree, disagree, or agree to disagree about the concepts put forward by the experts in regards to your works. Then, form your own thesis regarding these works.

Step Six: Write a series of drafts incorporating your thoughts weighed against the thoughts of expert opinion.

Step Seven: Submit your final essay!