Essay #3: Synthesis (20% of course grade)

Learning Objectives

1) Evaluate and analyze primary and secondary sources of information
2) Integrate your thoughts meaningfully with the words and ideas of published writers while foregrounding your own position. (This is essentially the definition of a synthesis.)
3) Summarize and cite sources accurately
4) Determine when to summarize, paraphrase, and quote
5) Convey complex ideas clearly and concisely
6) Use MLA format

This synthesis will present your own opinion about either the political influence of the wealthy elite or the concept of tuition-free college using the *New York Times* Room for Debate articles and at least three additional outside academic sources to present the conversation you are entering and to support or oppose your position. Prove to your readers that you are informed, intelligent, and capable of complex thought.

Tip

Beware of the Equivalency Fallacy. The truth isn’t always found in the middle of two opposing opinions. Well-informed opinions are more valuable than under-informed opinions, and facts trump lies. As we learned in class, check the credentials of all the authors, consider whether they have biased agendas, and question their premises along with their positions.

Before you start, read the section on Synthesizing Ideas in your Norton text (457-461). This section is pay dirt.

Remember to scroll down to the next page which is the rubric page you attach to your print copy.
Essay #3: Synthesis

1. Level of originality and depth of your own informed opinion

— ________________________________ +

2. Integration of comparisons, contrasts, and relevant examples

— ________________________________ +

3. Accurate summarizing, paraphrasing, and quoting of your sources

— ________________________________ +

4. Clear and concise

— ________________________________ +

5. Your writing goal for this assignment (one of your four goals on Turnitin): ________________