

## Mod 4 Assignment

### Overview

Identity doesn't only affect who you believe you are; it also shapes the way you view the world. Every piece of your identity brings with it struggles, passions, and perspectives that other identities may or may not share. Because we cannot all share the same perspective, we often create division.

In this essay you will research various perspectives on topics that may be important to one or more aspects of your identity. You may have a strong opinion on the topic based on your identity struggles, passions, and perspectives. The challenge in this essay is to look beyond your own understanding of the topic to see the common ground among the various perspectives.

You should spend approximately 5 hours on this assignment.

### Instructions

1. **Research:** You will choose one of the following identity-related topics for your research. You should use the same topic you researched for the discussions. Carefully read and annotate one of the following topic guides found at the CCCOnline Library as the basis for your research. Be sure to also read the resources in the "Related Items" box on the right side of the Overview page:
  - [Feminism](#)
  - [Racial Profiling](#)
  - [Rights of Convicted Felons](#)
  - [Separation of Church and State](#)
  - [Immigration Restrictions](#)
  - [Online Degree Programs](#)
2. **Pre-Write:** Consider the different perspectives on your topic. Why do they think this issue is important? What do they have to gain or lose? What are the main arguments of each perspective? How are their positions similar and/or different from one another? What are their goals or desired outcomes regarding the topic? Look at this topic from their various perspectives, and examine what these voices have to say.
3. **Write:**
  - **Introduction:** Your introduction should describe the issue or topic. You should explain why the topic is significant and why it warrants a solution. Your thesis should clearly show the solution you will present in the essay.
  - **Body Section 1:** The first section of your essay should explain one of the sides of the issue. Fairly represent their arguments, concerns, and desired outcomes.
  - **Body Section 2:** The second section of your essay should explain the opposing side of the issue. Fairly represent their arguments,

concerns, and desired outcomes.

- **Body Section 3:** The third section of your essay should explain the shared beliefs and goals of the two perspectives. What do they have in common? Synthesize the two viewpoints to show how they will be able to build on their common goals.
- **Body Section 4:** The fourth section of your essay should detail your proposed solution or alternate position. Show how to solve the problem in a way that will benefit both parties. Draw on the common ground between the parties to find a reasonable way to create a third perspective on the issue. Show your readers how this third perspective is preferable to the two opposing sides.
- **Conclusion:** Your conclusion should restate the significance of the issue and synthesize the benefits of your proposed solution/third perspective.

#### 4. **Tips for Success:**

- Be fair and credible. Show your understanding of both sides of the issue by comparing and contrasting the ideas presented in your sources.
  - Use a neutral tone. Consider yourself the mediator between the two parties.
  - Consider your own rhetorical choices. Will you appeal to logos? Pathos? Ethos? How will you communicate effectively to your readers?
  - Each body section may be more than one paragraph. For example, it is likely that you will need at least two paragraphs to fully develop Body Section 4.
  - Support your ideas with quotations and paraphrases from the sources you considered in your research. You should use 2-3 quotations and paraphrase other main ideas. Be sure to use quotation marks and in-text citations appropriately and responsibly.
  - Create a correctly formatted Works Cited page with an entry for each source you cite within your essay.
  - Your essay should be approximately 1,100-1,200 words, not inclusive of the Works Cited page.
5. Be sure to use MLA Style to format this assignment. Apply MLA Style to all aspects of the paper, including the heading, title page, proper paragraph indentation and spacing, font, margins, size, etc. Need help with MLA? Please refer to the [CCOnline MLA Citation Toolkit](#) or consult the [Purdue OWL](#) for more information.
6. Proofread your work before submission.
7. Submit your assignment to the **Module 4 Assignment folder: Common Ground Synthesis Essay**