

HANDOUT: Synthesizing Exercise

Directions

- Using the statement at the top of the "Categorization" handout and the categories you filled in for that exercise, write a topic sentence for each of the three categories that clearly and directly generalizes the similarity that each name/event has in common with the other names and events in that category.
- When a generalization has been made, choose **five** pieces of factual information that best support the topic sentence. Evaluate them by ranking them in descending order of importance in supporting the topic sentence. Write one clear sentence justifying the first choice of factual information for each topic sentence.
- Rank the categories in descending order of importance.
- Write a thesis statement that directly links the categories to some common theme:

Category I: _____ **Rank** _____

Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Topic Sentence: _____

Justification for #1:

Category II: _____ **Rank** _____

Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Topic Sentence: _____

Justification for #1:

Category III: _____ **Rank:** _____

Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Topic Sentence: _____

Justification for #1:

Thesis statement linking all categories to a general theme: