

Synthepapers

length: minimum 5 pages

opt-out privilege: you may opt out once

In your synthe-papers you are to focus on the books we have read in class. Synthepapers are designed to help you develop both your critical thinking skills and your synthetic thinking skills. They should not be a summary of the book!! While you may devote one page to summarizing the main points of the book, you must devote the bulk of your paper to a thoughtful and original analysis.

Critical thinking skills: You should write a paper that analyzes/argues an original point that you come up with. You are NOT to simply repeat the author's ideas, but to built on these ideas to do the following:

- ✦critique the claims made by the author and/or
- ✦expand on his/her ideas, or study the broader implications of these ideas and/or
- ✦compare or contrast the author's ideas and case(s) with others that you are familiar with and/or
- ✦explore your personal reaction to the book and/or
- ✦offer social commentary (about the American public, or about the population in the countries where the case(s) take place) and/or
- ✦examine possible solutions to human rights problems and/or
- ✦Probe anthropological approaches to human rights and/or

Synthetic thinking skills: you should be able to draw links between the diverse materials that we have read/viewed/talked about in class. How do other materials support your ideas? How might other materials compare or contrast with the book? In your analysis make sure to link the book up with at least one film (except for Disposable People) and one article. In addition, you may refer to lecture notes or in-class discussions. Finally, feel free to link the book up with other books, films, cases that you know about from outside the class.