

Mining Presentations - Synthesis Essay

Synthesis Essay

If you look up the definition of "synthesize" you will find that it is to "combine (a number of things) into a coherent whole." In contrast, a summary is meant to "give a brief statement of the main points of (something)." For this assignment, ensure you are synthesizing, not summarizing.

You will be weaving together information from different presentations into one piece of writing that covers all of the different types mines and the resulting environmental degradation. Therefore, instead of breaking down the main points of each of your peers presentations into separate paragraphs, find common ground (similarities) and differences within their presentations in order to organize your synthesis.

To clarify don't write that group one said "this and that" and group two said "such and such". Instead, identify the major themes (or categories) such as *coal mining* and it's sub-themes such as *strip mining* and *mountaintop removal* and discuss those. Further, you can consider what you learned about copper and gold mining and discuss some of the major themes that connect these topics. If this seems vague to you, it is because that is the intention. Asking you to categorize and organize what you have learned into a synthesis helps you learn. If I tell you what to write and how to write it you won't think as much and correspondingly you won't reflect on the information and learn as much.

Your essay should cover the following points (does not need to be in this order; this is not an outline, just points to cover):

- types of minerals that are mined
- different types of mines
- various types of mineral extraction and processing methods
- the array of environmental degradation and pollution that results from mining
- environmental restoration/reclamation
- any relevant environmental laws

Basically synthesize all of your notes from the presentations into an essay. Also, as a resource, you can go to the student presentation list on the class wiki and look at the student presentations to gain deeper insight.

Length Requirement: 2 Pages (minimum; front and back of loose-leaf paper)