SYNTHESIS PAPER

What is a synthesis?
A synthesis is a written essay to discuss the relationships between multiple texts. In other words, you take multiple sources and write about how all of them demonstrate a common theme or statement.

Assignment:
Consider the following summary from the Schmoop website, which can be accessed at http://www.shmoop.com/intro/poetry/langston-hughes/harlem-dream-deferred.html

“Langston Hughes knew how important dreams are. Commonly thought of as the poet laureate of the Harlem Renaissance, Hughes was a prolific artist who wrote essays, short stories, operettas, children’s books, and mountains of poems. He celebrated the spirit of the African-American community and wanted to capture the condition and the everyday life of black people through his art in a time when many black artists were afraid to do so, for fear of feeding racial stereotypes. Many of Hughes’s poems carry the music, rhythm, and meter found in blues, jazz, and African-American spirituals. He advocated tirelessly for civil rights, and he was a powerful voice in the black community at a time of rampant racism and injustice.

“In ‘Harlem,’ Hughes asks a very important question about dreams and about what happens when dreams are ignored or postponed. Hughes saw the dreams of many residents of Harlem, New York crumble in the wake of World War II. Some read this poem as a warning, believing that the speaker argues that deferred dreams will lead to social unrest. Notably, Lorraine Hansberry chooses a line from this poem as the title of her famous play, A Raisin in the Sun, which explores the idea of delayed dreams in the world of a black family living in the South Side of Chicago during the 1950’s. Both the play and Hughes’s poem champion the power of pursing dreams, and both comment on the state of civil rights in America.”

Also, reference your guided readings from A Raisin in the Sun, your compare/contrast paper, and your notebooks from “Harlem/A Dream Deferred” to help you write your synthesis.

Prompt:
Using the characters from Hansberry’s screenplay and Langston Hughes’ “Harlem,” (possibly Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream Speech,”) write a synthesis in response to: “What happens to a dream deferred?”
Deadlines for the Synthesis (Writing Process):

Brainstorming/Outlining: Class time provided week of May 14th
Rough Drafts Due: Tuesday, May 22
Revising in-class: Tuesday, May 22 and Wednesday, May 23
Final Draft Due:
  1st and 2nd hours: Tuesday, May 29
  5th and 6th hours: Wednesday, May 30

Criteria:

- Must include introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
- Must have a thesis as the last sentence of your introduction.
- Each body paragraph should have a topic sentence.
- Use three quotations for each paragraph: probably one from Hughes’ poem or Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech and two from A Raisin in the Sun.
- Use MLA Formatting (Remember, screenplays are italicized).
- Works Cited Required
- Proofread your paper!
- Embed your quotations: Example: When Beneatha claims that she feels no love for her brother, Mama remarks that “there is always something left to love” (Hansberry 145).
- Explain your quotations in context of your thesis.
- Do NOT use first person for formal papers. (NO “I,” “you,” “we, “us”)

Brainstorming:

What does Langston Hughes’ “Harlem/A Dream Deferred” say about a dream?

What does Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech “I Have a Dream” say about dreams?
Help with the Outline:

Introduction:

Hook: (statistic/thought provoking quote/question/bold statement)

Transition/Background information: (link the hook with the ideas presented in each text; also, introduce each text with the title and author, a brief idea of what each one of them is about)

Thesis: (statement you are trying to prove; TOPIC + STANCE + DIRECTION)

Body Paragraphs:

All body paragraphs should contain a topic sentence, linking explanation of topic sentence to text (if needed), an embedded quotation with citation, explanation of the quotation in context of the story, explanation of the quotation in relation to the text introduced before it, and explanation of how the quotation/idea presented in the text links to the thesis.

Example Paragraph: You may not use Travis or these words.

Dreams that do not have action taken upon them or that have been deprived of the breath of fortunate luck are dreams that do not always blossom into reality. In *A Raisin in the Sun*, the Younger family faces a lot of challenges to accomplishing their dreams. For instance, Travis, the youngest of them, wants fifty-cents for school, and yet, he cannot get it because his mom simply “ain’t got it” (Hansberry 28). While it is not a heart-wrenching dream, it is an example of a want that cannot be initially fulfilled. Also, although Travis is eventually given fifty-cents before he leaves for school, the lower economic status of the Younger family will continue to influence Travis’ life and dreams. Therefore, Travis could feel the burden of a dream being deferred to the point where it “festers like a sore” (Hughes 5). The ache of the dream is like the ache of a sore providing a constant pain. The pain of a dream being prevented will wear on him to the point where he is forced to take a stance like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Overall, the necessity of dreams to be fulfilled reaches an altitude where if nothing is done, the dream will be stifled from lack of oxygen.

Conclusion

Restate Thesis (Using words different from those in your introduction):

Provide a quick review of your main points: (refer back to each of the texts and summarize your paragraphs in one sentence)

Thought-provoking statement: (leave your reader with something to think about – stay on topic, don’t give them a brand new topic to think about)
Space for practicing the MLA documentation:
*Remember, the Works Cited page is typed and stapled to the back of your synthesis.