

Name: _____ Per. _____ DUE DATE: _____

Always Running Synthesis Essay

Learning Targets:

- **LT 1:** Cite textual evidence to support argument
- **LT 3:** Synthesize multiple sources, noting similarities and differences between texts
- **LT 4:** Introduce arguments/thesis statements, organize ideas clearly with evidence
- **LT 7:** Organize ideas clearly for a specific audience and purpose. Plan, revise, edit, rewrite
- **LT 8:** Follow language conventions: spelling, grammar, punctuation, and MLA Formatting



Choose one of the following writing prompts:

___ 1. **Code of the Streets:** How is Elijah Anderson's "The Code of the Streets" connected to Luis Rodriguez's *Always Running*? How is "The Code" a guide to the Rodriguez's choices in East Los Angeles? What are the causes/effects and possible solutions for gang-affiliated youth in Los Angeles? Write a synthesis essay including evidence from both texts.

___ 2. **Political Activism:** What does Luis Rodriguez's memoir *Always Running* reveal about the way Latinos transformed their minds and their lives? Discuss *Always Running*, the film *Walkout*, Rodolfo Corky Gonzales's poem "I am Joaquin," and the film *Precious Knowledge* as you explore how Latinos can remove the "shackles" from their minds.

___ 3. **Texts in Conversation: Luis Rodriguez, Tupac Shakur & Malcolm X:** In his writing, Rodriguez explores the impact the streets have had on his life. Explore the recurring themes of *Always Running*, the *Autobiography of Malcolm X* and Tupac Shakur's poetry. You may also choose to include additional texts by Rodriguez: "The Price of Family," "Race Politics," "Watts Bleeds," and "Mean Streets."

Resources available at: mnriddle.com

Writing Criteria:

- Well-organized multiple-paragraph essay.
- A clear thesis statement (main argument).
- Textual evidence from three or more sources, with analysis (cited in MLA Format).
- Checked for spelling/grammar/mechanics.
- Typed in MLA Format (Times New Roman, 12 point, Double Spaced) in Google Classroom (classroom.google.com).
- Works Cited page: bibme.org, citationmachine.net
- Editing/Revision websites: paperrater.com, grammarly.com, hemingwayapp.com

Introducing Quotes/Evidence:

- X states, "_____."
- According to X, "_____."
- In X's view, "_____."

Analyzing/Explaining Evidence:

- In other words, X believes _____.
- In making this comment, X shows us that _____.
- X's point is that _____.

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Always Running Synthesis Essay Outline

1. Introduction Paragraph (Introducción Párrafo):
 - a. Attention Grabber/Hook - get reader's attention (llamar la atención del lector): rhetorical question, startling statement, anecdote, list, fact, quote

 - b. Choose one of the writing prompt questions (Elija una de las preguntas de escritura rápida):
 - i. This essay will explore...

 - c. List the texts you'll be discussing in this essay: authors/titles (autores/títulos)
 - i.

 - ii.

 - iii.

 - d. Thesis Statement Starters (declaración de tesis) - choose one:
 - i. The texts ____ and ____ explore the recurring theme of...
 - ii. The authors ____ and ____ share a common message of...

2. Body paragraph 1 - Main Idea 1 (Idea principal 1): _____
 - a. Explain the main idea and how it connects to the theme (Explica esta idea principal y cómo se conecta con el tema):

 - b. Text 1: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)

 - c. Analysis (Análisis): In other words, ____ believes...

 - d. Text 2: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)

- e. Analysis (Análisis): The author's point is that...
 - f. These texts explore the recurring theme of _____, by showing...
3. Body paragraph 2 - Main Idea 2 (Idea principal 2): _____
- a. Explain this main idea and how it connects to the theme (Explica esta idea principal y cómo se conecta con el tema):
 - b. Text 1: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
 - c. Analysis (Análisis): In making this comment, _____ shows us that...
 - d. Text 2: Quote/Paraphrase (cotización/paráfrasis) (cite author, page #)
 - e. Analysis (Análisis): This points out that...
 - f. These texts demonstrate that...
4. Conclusion paragraph (Conclusión del párrafo) - Questions to consider:
- a. How do these texts agree/disagree with one another?
 - b. How do the ideas of the different writers affect you?
 - c. What is the message (or "lesson") from these texts for today's world?

Grabber: Introductory Idea



Thesis Statement: Main Argument



Main Idea 1

Main Idea 2

Main Idea 3

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Analysis

Analysis

Analysis

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Supporting Detail/Evidence

Analysis

Analysis

Analysis

Conclusion: Summarize your thoughts, connect back to your thesis statement