**Synthesis notes**

**Synthesis**: the combining of separate elements to form a complete whole. In other words, answering a question using 2 pieces of writing.

**Synthesis musts:**

-Discuss both stories (relatively equally)

-answer the question

-use quotes from both

-use formal essay format (thesis, no slang, no first or second person, in present tense)

**Types of Synthesis questions**

A) Discuss what 2 stories have in common (sometimes stated as a compare/contrast question)

Ie: What traits do Vic Donatti from "Quitters Inc" and Dr. Fitzgerald from "Eli" have in common?

-morally questionable

-prey on other people's weaknesses

-sadistic (enjoy watching people suffer)

B) Which story does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ better story A or story B (must discuss both stories, so if you explain why one is better you must also include why the other is not as strong)

Ie: which character is more morally questionable, Dr. Fitzgerald or Vic Donatti?

-doctor is a professional, Donatti is a criminal

-doctor is educated, Donatti grew up in mob

-doctor harms others possibly not connected by giving Eli scissors, Donatti focuses only on client and client's family

C) What type of advice would Vic Donatti give Dr. Fitzgerald about how to deal with Eli?

-be pragmatic

-the end justifies the means

-violence is acceptable

**Format for synthesis essays (2 options!)**

**The block method**: discuss how each story fits the question in separate paragraphs.

Paragraph 1:

Introduction: hook, thesis, blueprint, summary

Paragraph 2: discuss how Vic Donatti is morally questionable, sadistic and preys on other people's weaknesses

Paragraph 3: discuss how dr. Fitzgerald is morally questionable, sadistic and preys on other people's weaknesses

Paragraph 4: discuss what both have in common or how the 2 stories are linked (connect to your thesis)

Paragraph 5: conclusion: summary, connection between the 2 stories and a final thought

**The point method:**

Paragraph one :Introduction: hook, thesis, blueprint, summary

Paragraph two: discuss how both the dr. and Donatti are morally questionable

Paragraph three: discuss how both the dr. and Donatti are sadistic

Paragraph four: discuss how both the dr. and Donatti prey on other people's weaknesses

Paragraph five: conclusion: summary, connection between the two stories and a final thought