

The Road to Synthesis (23 points)

PART I (10 points):

As you view the two TED Talks that are listed below, and read the poem, “How to Write the Great American Indian Novel,” note evidence (specific details) from each talk that helps answer the question below. FYI, there are transcripts for each talk on the TED site. Make sure you read the footnotes to understand the question.

*What are the problems of postcolonial identity, including the relationship between personal and cultural identity, which includes and such issues as double **consciousness**¹ and **hybridity**²?*

*[Breaking down the question: Imperialism forces indigenous cultures to conform to the imperialists **norms**³. People are forced to adapt to a new way of life despite their own rich cultural heritage. The indigenous people become of two worlds. The way they think, behave, speak, interact with each other and with imperialists, and create is based on straddling two worlds, or in some cases being born of both worlds. So the question becomes, what views about personal and cultural identity are common amongst indigenous people once their oppressors leave and what problems do those views either reflect or create?]*

Type your notes in the box below each title.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie “[The Danger of a Single Story](#)” (←click & view the talk)

Chris Abani “[Telling Stories from Africa](#)”(←click & view the talk)

¹ The mixing of cultures; ex. double consciousness – one goes to an American University and gets educated then returns to native land only to find that he/she cannot identify with the culture anymore

² [...] the integration (or, mingling) of cultural signs and practices from the colonizing and the colonized cultures ("integration" may be too orderly a word to represent the variety of stratagems, desperate or cunning or good-willed, by which people adapt themselves to the necessities and the opportunities of more or less oppressive or invasive cultural impositions, live into alien cultural patterns through their own structures of understanding, thus producing something familiar but new.

³ a standard or pattern, especially of social behavior, that is typical or expected of a group.

Sherman Alexie “[How to Write the Great American Indian Novel](#)”(←click & view the poem)

PART II (13 points):

Mini Synthesis Task

Use your Part I notes and the template below to complete the tasks below.

Based on Alexie, Ngozi Adichie, and Abani how would you answer the question at the top of this exercise (think of this response as thesis statement)?

Record Thesis (claim) Here (**4 points/ rubric**): *(note- create a thesis with a concession. Use the [Ashford Thesis Generator](#) (see thesis model 2). Your thesis should be a single declarative sentence, consisting of 20 or fewer words. Do not include specific details from the texts in your thesis.)*

Now, use that answer to create three points. Your points **should not be specific details from the texts**; instead, they are ideas the details from the text facilitate. (**3 points**)

- I. Point 1:
- II. Point 2:
- III. Point 3:

Support each of those points with the details you noted in the note section of this exercise. (**3 points each= 6 points**)

- I. Point I:(repeat point I you wrote above)
 - A. -
 - B. -
 - C. -
- II. Point II: (repeat point II you wrote above)
 - A. -
 - B. -
 - C. -

III. Point III: (repeat point III you wrote above)

A. -

B. -

C. -