**HANDOUT: Synthesizing Exercise**

**Directions**

• Using the statement at the top of the "Categorization" handout and the categories you filled in for that exercise, write a topic sentence for each of the three categories that clearly and directly generalizes the similarity that each name/event has in common with the other names and events in that category.

• When a generalization has been made, choose five pieces of factual information that best support the topic sentence. Evaluate them by ranking them in descending order of importance in supporting the topic sentence. Write one clear sentence justifying the first choice of factual information for each topic sentence.

• Rank the categories in descending order of importance.

• Write a thesis statement that directly links the categories to some common theme:

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**Category I:** __________________________________________ Rank ______

Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. ________________________________________
2. ________________________________________
3. ________________________________________
4. ________________________________________
5. ________________________________________

**Topic Sentence:** ________________________________________

**Justification for #1:** ________________________________________

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**Category II:** __________________________________________ Rank ______
Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. ________________________________________

2. ________________________________________

3. ________________________________________

4. ________________________________________

5. ________________________________________

Topic Sentence: ________________________________________________

Justification for #1: ________________________________________________

Category III:________________________________________Rank_______

Factual information list (in descending order of importance):

1. ________________________________________

2. ________________________________________

3. ________________________________________

4. ________________________________________

5. ________________________________________

Topic Sentence: ________________________________________________

Justification for #1: ________________________________________________

Thesis statement linking all categories to a general theme:__________________________

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