

# Analytical Essay

Contrasting Texts → Dialectic

**Thesis**: Human nature is good (Mencius).

**Antithesis**: Human nature is evil (Hsün Tzu).

**Synthesis**: Neither good nor evil, human nature is inherently self-interested, which can be good in some circumstances and evil in others.

**Thesis**: Though "war" is an invention only in some societies, conflict is everywhere (Mead).

**Antithesis**: Force is an instrument of justice; war is sometimes necessary (Elshtain).

**Synthesis**: Even though war may not be everywhere, conflict IS everywhere, so complete peace is nonexistent.

**Thesis**: The natural state of humanity is war (the struggle of opposing interests) (Hobbes).

**Antithesis**: The natural state of humanity is a tabula rasa (blank slate) (Locke).

**Synthesis**: Since humanity begins as a blank slate, and we develop within different societies, we are always molded to present conflict.

# Analytical Essay

Comparative Texts

**Thesis**: The individual and culture go hand in hand (Benedict).

**Thesis**: Human evolution has been shaped by cultural environments (Wilson).

**Synthesis**: Human nature is always a product of its society's culture.

**Thesis**: Overpopulation is destroying the earth's commons; the only way to survive is to limit our reproduction (Hardin).

**Thesis**: With all beings there must be much fortuitous destruction; only the fittest survive (Darwin).

**Synthesis**: The only way to ensure human survival is to follow nature's natural selection.

**Thesis**: Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere (MLK Jr.).

**Thesis**: If war is not everywhere, then it is an invention only in some places (Mead).

**Synthesis**: Society's creation of injustices leading to war will be our downfall.



Thesis: Violence can never be overcome by nonviolence (Orwell).

Thesis: If violence is never used as retaliation, we will be overcome by fear (Elshtain).

Synthesis: War is sometimes necessary.