BLM 10 – *Scoring Guide for Synthesis of Texts*

6	The response is **superior**, demonstrating an insightful understanding of the texts. It shows a sophisticated approach to synthesis, including pertinent references. The writing style is effective and demonstrates skillful control of language. Despite its clarity and precision, the response need not be error-free.
5	The response is **proficient**, demonstrating a clear understanding of the texts at an interpretive level. It clearly synthesizes the concepts within the texts. References may be explicit or implicit and convincingly support the analysis. The writing is well organized and reflects a strong command of the conventions of language. Errors may be present but are not distracting.
4	The response is **competent**. Understanding of the texts tends to be literal and superficial. Some synthesis is apparent. The response may rely heavily on paraphrasing. References are present and appropriate but may be limited. The writing is organized and straightforward. Conventions of language are usually followed, but some errors are evident.
3	The response is **barely adequate**. Understanding of the texts may be partially flawed. An attempt at synthesis is evident. References to the texts are not clearly connected to a central idea or may be repetitive. The response may show some sense of purpose, but errors may be distracting.
2	The response is **inadequate**. While there is an attempt to address the topic, understanding of the texts or the task may be seriously flawed. Errors are recurring, distracting, and impede meaning.
1	The response is **unacceptable**. It does not meet the purpose of the task or may be too brief to address the topic. There is a serious lack of control in the writing.
0	The response reflects a **complete misunderstanding** of the texts and/or the task or is a restatement of the question.