

# Synthesis Essay 1

“A constraint is an axiom of a text”

[Oulipo Packet 2, Page 11] —Roubaud

Whilst in the innocent pursuit of a harmony and play between Literature and Mathematics, the Oulipo seems consistently to brush against and sometimes find it necessary to attack norms and conventions of literature.

It's in this encounter with our conception of what Literature is and is for that the Oulipo brings us into questions central to literary theory as Culler describes it. But the Oulipo approaches literary questions with a somewhat different set of terms than Culler uses—the Roubaud quote above is a fair example.

Your job is to synthesize such divergent ways of thinking and use some readings from each week (1, 2, 3, & 4) to substantiate **a Claim about the ways that *Mathematical thinking can affect our approach to understanding and/or creating works of Literature.***

## Expectations

Your Synthesis should be 4-6 pages in length.

In your Synthesis, use proper grammar, an academic style, and formally consistent citations.

Your Synthesis should have a clear, guiding thesis statement.

Your Synthesis should reflect careful reading and analysis of program texts.

Your Synthesis should not be divided into isolated discussions of individual works; rather, it should function to show connections and correspondences between different works.

You should feel obliged to do some independent research to clarify and enrich your discussion.

You should consult your faculty, program assistants, and writing tutors for guidance on subject matter, argument, and style.

You should plan to meet with a tutor at least once, and, ideally, several times, during your writing process.

You should use your Synthesis as an opportunity to demonstrate the depth of your understanding of mathematical and literary ideas.

You should discuss your Synthesis with your Project Group.