

**Physical Science**

Activity 16: Write an Opinion Essay

Topic 17: Types of Chemical Reactions

**General Instructions:**

Use a computer to complete your essay/document.

- Write a “five-part” 250-400 word essay in a single 40-minute session.
- Include an introduction, three key supporting paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Correct spelling, punctuation, and grammar errors prior to completing work.
- Submit or share your final document with your instructor.

**Suggestions and Tips:**

1. Read the background and context. Familiarize yourself with the subject area.
2. Select either A or B as the basis for your thesis.
3. Plan the essay prior to writing it.
4. Make the essay organized. Avoid placing multiple points in one paragraph.
5. Use only Times New Roman font 12 with double-spacing to format your document.
6. Discuss only one supporting reason supporting your thesis in each of the body paragraphs.
7. Conclude with a summary.
8. In the summary, rephrase the introduction and thesis. Emphasize key supporting rationale.

**Background and Context:**

One of the five types of chemical reactions is called “synthesis” – but sometimes it is instead called “combination.” Both of these words mean essentially the same thing. But some textbooks and videos use “synthesis” – while others use the word “combination.” Some students and instructors wish all the information sources would just settle on one of the words, believing it is too confusing to have two words used for the same concept. Other students and instructors are just fine with using both words. These students and instructors believe the words can be interchanged with each other without difficulty.

**Position A:** Everyone should use just one of the words – either of the words would be okay – but to avoid confusion, either “synthesis” or “combination” should be used at all times.

**Position B:** It is no big deal to use two different words for conveying one concept. Using both of the words (interchanging them at times) is perfectly okay.