

TO DO LIST for a SYNTHESIS or ARGUMENT essay (6 points)

A. SYNTHESIS PROMPT and THESIS - 1 Point- And circle or underline the MAIN tasks!

- 1. YOU are #1** in an **ARGUMENT** or **SYNTHESIS** essay- **Your thesis** should be the primary focus and line of reasoning. **Your intro paragraph** will summarize your defensible claim, your 3-4 major reasons, maybe a few authors, & hint at your **qualified solution** as it all relates to and answers the **prompt**. Then use body paragraphs go into detail.
- 2. Read / Restate / Focus on the Prompt!** –Imagine writing an essay for 50 minutes that is off topic- earning you're a zero or a low score- how would you feel? Take time to read/understand the prompt. Then restate it consistently in your essay.
3. Use **synonyms** for words in the **prompt**-take time to **list synonyms for the prompt** before writing.
(Problem) Dilemma, Predicament, Epidemic, Emergency, Quandary, Detriment, Disadvantage
(Solution), Remedy, Cure, Antidote, Resolution, Medicine, tonic Benefit, Advantage

B. ARGUE with 4-5-6 sources: SYNTHESIS means **Combination** or **Mixture**. In a **Synthesis Essay**, you are **Combining or Contrasting** a variety of sources' arguments/evidences and **sautéing them with YOUR arguments**. Show you **understand** the source. Show how it **contrasts/supports** your ideas.

4. You do **NOT** have to agree with every source. When contrasting or disagreeing with sources, try to find 1 thing you agree with or **Concede** with- like their motivation, their logic, statistics, or their point of view, then **Refute** what you disagree with. What **weaknesses** do they have?

5. **NO ONE CARES if you can summarize...** -Readers want to hear if you can **EXPLAIN** how sources **SUPPORT/CONTRAST** your ideas. "Quote" / paraphrase key research- **SHOW** you understand them;

6. **Don't quote and run! Give commentary and explanations.** *Discuss how it supports/contrasts with your qualified ideas.* Relate quotes to the audience, and find strengths/fallacies/weaknesses of the arguments.

Dr. _____, the author of _____, also declares/believes that "_____" (Source A). **This is logical because...**

Having _____ is a valuable solution, because it "_____" and "_____" as described by _____ (source B). **Since _____, I agree with Dr. _____ who argues that _____ is "_____" and "_____"** (Source C). **However, he ignores that _____**

*Always lead in or out of a quote. MLK said, "_____" "_____" is a quote by _____. **I agree that _____**

7. **Repeat your line of reasoning-** repeat how all the evidence supports YOUR ARGUMENT/SOLUTION. Based on the prompt, **KEEP repeating how your explanations answer the prompt. (4 points)**

C. GO FURTHER - CONNECT to other fields of study or points of view! How does your topic relate to history? Economy? Technology? Science? Politics? Religion? **Does your view change** when considering Geography? Culture? Psychology? Priorities/Family? Future? Think **BIG picture**. Think **outside** the box!

8. **Defend yourself-** What would Opponents say about your ideas? **Contrast** WHY your ideas are better, more logical, weigh more, are better solutions, etc.

9. Think of **Opposites!** What arguments/ or points of view did sources leave out or choose NOT to mention? What is **MORE** important? **Outweighs** / is more ethical/logical than..

10. **DO NOT SOUND LIKE EVERY OTHER AP STUDENT! ADD VOICE!** Have passion! Add Ethos/Ethics and Pathos, even YOUR OWN EXPERIENCES as Examples!

11. **BE MLK- USE your OWN style!** Can you use an **Analogy**? Can you write a **LONG sentence with phrases like Even though** , **Not only** , **but also** . **Appositive phrase?** Use a : or ; add your own similes, imagery/sensory details, clever/witty metaphors, epithets, alliteration, etc.;

12 **ADD Clever/Sophisticated VOCAB!**

13. **MEMORIZE wise sayings/ allusions/facts** to historical events, or people, science, the bible, social constructs, ect, anything that can throw impressive punches of wisdom at the AP Reader so they award you the final 6th point of your essays. Wise sayings like: *Is what is logical or moral more important?*

"The truth will set you free" (Jesus-John 8:32). "We reap what we sow" (Galatians 6:7). Supply & Demand.

"The ends justifies the means" (Machiavelli). "The foolishness of God is wiser than men." 1 Cor 1:25

The logical man must either deny all miracles or none. *Charles Alexander Eastman*. Big Brother (1984).

"Great things are done when men and mountains meet." William Blake.

Wisdom vs. Logic: even criminals use logic to justify their actions.

An action doesn't have to be wrong just because it is not logical. It doesn't have to be right just because it has its logic. *Lion Feuchtwanger* Innovation is not the product of logical thought... Albert Einstein

Memorize facts like: The average human life _____ yrs; the Average household income in 2019 is \$ _____ in US, \$ _____ in world.. The average dept in US is \$ _____. # of Ethnicities in the US _____. Fast **Earth** flying _____ MPH and is spinning _____ MPH; # of wars in US history _____. # of US bases around world _____ today. # of people incarcerated _____. Date of Industrial Rev _____ in US. Date **Constitution** was written _____. Key Amendments _____. \$ spent on Defense _____ Yr Avg hours spend on TV _____ Cell _____. Date Einstein lived _____ Edison _____. \$ Value of a loaf of bread in 1950 _____, 1980 _____, 2000 _____, 2020 _____. \$ spent on Education _____ Yr

TO DO LIST- Q1,3

Summarize the Main Tips below.

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TO DO LIST- Q2

Read the info on the right, then summarize the Main Tips below.

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TO DO LIST for a Rhetorical Analysis (6 points)

A. PROMPT and THESIS - 1 Point- And circle or underline the MAIN tasks!

1. **Read and Restate and Focus on the Prompt!** - In the 2009 Environmental Satire Article on the Environment, 90% of students did not focus on "how the satire illustrates how unproductive such discussions are." Many didn't even mention "satire" in their essay. That is just indolence/laziness.

2. Use **synonyms** for the words in the **prompt**-take time to **list synonyms for the prompt before** writing Satire = make fun, caricaturize, mock, ridicule... Unproductive= futile, fruitless, superfluous, waste, pointless, unsuccessful...

3. Don't be afraid to **craft a thesis that hints at your opinion**, but the essay should focus mostly on the prompt/text/author. Adding your own argument or hinting (in an absolute or qualified sentence) the purpose of the author **CREATES** a **defensible** position- which is key for a thesis.

B. Major ARGUMENTS- Claims + Evidences + Purpose. (4 points)

In an analysis, we first **Summarize**, then **evaluate** the truth and weightiness of **what people say/claims, and their evidences, proofs or logic they give.**

4. Next, we give higher level thinking on the **context, audience, implications, and strengths (and fallacies/weaknesses)** of the arguments. Do you see **Absolute** statements in claims or Qualifiers? These all directly support and reveal the **author's PURPOSE** for **audiences**...

5. **QUOTE and EXPLAIN**- After a topic sentences, quote/quote/explain; quote/quote/explain. Effects Verbs are your best friends, but also learn to quote quickly, or give multiple quick quotes per paragraph.

6. **Repeat your line of reasoning**- repeat how all the evidence supports the author's purpose. Or based on the prompt, **KEEP repeating how your explanations answer the prompt.**

C. Minor STYLISTIC choices- Say it with me "Style." All writers use style: some are unique, some are extreme, some are commonplace. Style includes tone, organization, vocab choice, sentence choice, figurative language, witty comments, repetition, etc. (This is also a part of the **4 point** score)

7. ***Diction**= word choice, tone) is big part of **style**. Look at single word choices like "we," or larger words.. thinking of why did the author use "annihilated" instead of "passed away." Compare **colloquial** words with **formal** or **archaic** words.

8. ***Syntax**- Does the writer's type of grammar/sentences/phrases have an effect? What is repeated? Does he always start with **Active** voice to sound stern and to the point, or **Passive** voice or **Periodic** Sentences to keep the reader in suspense, or loose/cumulative sentences to sound thorough? What is **juxtaposed** next to each other? Are there any **Antithetical** statements? Is **parallelism** used?

9. Thirdly, look at **figurative language** that they may employ, which **may** have a significance to helping them be persuasive, but these are not the goals of the writer, they are just **stylistic** choices, and with practice I think you are all getting better at focusing on the main things more than the minor things. **Fig Lang** includes analogies, anecdotes, allusions, similes, metaphors, personification, symbolism, etc. Do you see **irony/wit** or **paradoxical statements**?

D. Get more SOPHISTICATED in your ideas/Vocab. (1 point) CONNECT! Are there any parts in the text that refers to historical **context**? Does this relate to scientific laws? Culture/psychology? Politics? The Environment? Economy? Biology? Education/Conditioning?

10. Use Academic Vocabulary! Cross out words and write in better ones.

11. Think of **opposites**! What style or arguments did the writer choose NOT to use?

12. STRETCH! Go deeper into the mind of the writer and audience- even if you are stretching/squeezing it out... "The reference to the "New Paper headline" in line 27 seems like he is referring to the malfunction of Apollo 13, shocking the reader with satire..." or "The "news headline" in line 27 might be an allusion to the Beatles breaking up in 1970, which would contrast and deflate Coca Cola's argument by seeming trivial in comparison."

13. BE MLK- USE your OWN style! No one said you have to sound like a dead fish... add your own similes, analogies, imagery/sensory details, clever/witty adjectives, epithets, alliteration, etc. Also, **get intentionally more sophisticated in vocab**. Furthermore, add **allusions** to history, science, the bible, social constructs, psychology, ect, anything that can throw impressive punches of wisdom at the AP Reader so they award you the final 6th point of your essays.

ARGUMENT/SYNTHESIS TO DO LIST- Q1 or 3

- A. Circle Prompt/Thesis**
 1. **YOU** are #1 arguer
 2. **Restate**-Prompt intro
 3. Write **synonyms**
B. Sauté 4-6 Sources
 4. **Concede/Contrast**
 5. **Use/Explain** sources
 6. Don't quote and **run**
 7. **Repeat** prompt/thesis **10x**
C. Go Further- fields...POV
 8. Defend- **Opponents**
 9. **Opposites**, what ignored
 10. **ADD VOICE**- Be unique
 11. **Be MLK**- fig/syntax
 12. **Memorize** quotes/facts
 13. Use Sophisticated Vocab

TO DO LIST- Q1 or 3

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COPY THE Q#1 or #3 LIST

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RHETORICAL ANALYSIS TO DO LIST- Q2

- A. Prompt/Thesis**
 1. Restate Prompt intro
 2. Write synonyms
 3. Defendable thesis
B. Major Arguments
 4. claim, evidence,
 5. context, audience,
 implications, strengths,
 weaknesses=purpose
 6. Repeat Purpose
C. Stylistic Choices
 7. Word choice
 8. Sentence choice
 9. Fig Language/ Wit
**D. Sophistication, science,
 economy**
 10. Big Vocab
 11. Think of opposites
 12. Stretch to life/world
 13. Be MLK- use style

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