



ELA Virtual Learning

**AP Lang and Comp:  
Synthesis Essay**

**April 15, 2020**



## AP Lang and Comp

Lesson: April 15, 2020 (3 of 5)

### Objective/Learning Target:

1. Apply close, critical reading strategies of complex non-fiction text in order to analyze and synthesize the information in order to evaluate its purpose, identify any bias and determine its validity.
2. To produce well-organized arguments using textual evidence from complex non-fiction texts while supporting a clear, concise claim.

## **Background Information:**

**A synthesis is a written discussion incorporating support from several sources of differing views. This type of assignment requires that you examine a variety of sources and identify their relationship to your thesis. This is the first of three essays on the AP Lang exam.**

## **Before you begin...**

**As you refer to each source included in this prompt, remember to look for the points listed below:**

- **Each source's stance on the topic**
- **The main idea of each source**
- **Concessions, objections, and rebuttals (when applicable).**
- **Types of evidence (anecdotal, historical, analogies, current events, etc.)**

**Make sure to read over the FOR, NEUTRAL, or AGAINST annotations.**

## Warm Up Activity:

Answer the following question about the Synthesis Essay:

Tips for effective synthesis include all of the following except...

- a. Strong, clear, precise thesis statement
- b. Not understanding the author's intent before using a source
- c. Discuss sources in relation to your thesis
- d. When using more than one quote/source, make sure you relate both sources to your main idea and to each other
- e. Use more than one source for each main point

## Warm Up Activity:

Answer the following question about the Synthesis Essay:

Tips for effective synthesis include all but which of the following?

a. Strong, clear, precise thesis statement

**b. Not understanding the author's intent before using a source**

c. Discuss sources in relation to your thesis

d. When using more than one quote/source, make sure you relate both sources to your main idea and to each other

e. Use more than one source for each main point

## Lesson:

- Review the prompt and the sources provided. There are a total of six sources.
- First, after reading each source and annotating FOR, NEUTRAL, or AGAINST for your topic, formulate arguments and supporting details from the ideas listed.
- Second, list the information from your sources that are PRO in the PRO column and CONS in the CON column.
- Third, create two arguments for both the PROS and the CONS. This will help you with your topic and allow you to visualize the rebuttal.
- Click [here](#) to read the prompt and sources.
- Click [here](#) to access the PROS/CONS sheet.

# Self-Assessment Checklist:

- Did you state your topic at the top of the sheet?
- Did you make a list of PROS and CONS for all sources in the corresponding boxes (minimum four per box)?
- Did you create two arguments using the PROS ideas?
- Did you create two arguments using the CONS ideas?



## Video Support:

- The following video link is a great tool to explain the counterargument and the rebuttal. This will allow you to take your argument to the next level. Watch the video and consider your arguments against possible counterarguments.

[Writing the Counterargument and Rebuttal](#)

## Further Practice:

- The following link is a PDF version of a Weighted Pros and Cons list. It contains a blank sheet as well as an example sheet. Feel free to use the prompt at the top of the sheet. Print off or write on a separate sheet of paper.

[Weighted Pros and Cons](#)