



## **ELA Virtual Learning**

# **AP Language and Composition Synthesis**

**May 22, 2020**



# AP Language & Composition

## Lesson: May 22, 2020

### **Objectives:**

1. Create and sustain original arguments based on information synthesized from provided sources.
2. Evaluate and incorporate sources into your own argument.
3. Analyze images and other multimodal texts.
4. Demonstrate control of standard written English as well as stylistic maturity.



## Before you begin

You need your essay from yesterday. Before focusing on specific revisions, evaluate your own essay using the AP rubric. To the best of your ability, determine whether you have met the expectations for each scoring criteria.

- Click [here](#) for the rubric (pages 2-4 only).



## Today's Lesson

The purpose of today's lesson is to evaluate your essay and make appropriate revisions that will improve your writing.

Taking the time to revise your writing now can help you improve your writing in the future. Through revisions, you are able to identify your strengths and weaknesses, and you better understand how to clearly express your ideas.

"The best advice I can give on this is, once it's done, to put it away until you can read it with new eyes. When you're ready, pick it up and read it, as if you've never read it before. If there are things you aren't satisfied with as a reader, go in and fix them as a writer: that's revision." —Neil Gaiman

# Practice

The purpose of today's lesson is to evaluate your essay and make the necessary revisions that will improve your writing. Complete each number listed below and on the slides that follow.

## 1. Parenthetical citations

- Have you included parenthetical citations after each source (whether you quoted it directly or paraphrased it)?
- You can include the source letter or the author's last name in parentheses; however, don't mix the two. Be consistent throughout your essay.
- Example: "...should be studied" (**Carbonell**) **OR** Example: "...should be studied" (**Source E**).

## Practice - continued

### 2. **Avoid absolutes.**

- Look for absolutes in your essay. These are words like *always*, *never*, *everyone*, and *no one*.
- If you find examples in your writing, replace those words with something softer.
  - For example, instead of writing, “*Everyone* believes...” write “*Many people* believe...”
- The reason you want to avoid absolutes is that it’s easy for someone to find exceptions and prove you wrong (thus weakening your credibility).

## Practice - continued

### 3. Transitions

- Pay attention to where you finish using one source and move to a different source. Did you include transitional words or phrases so your writing flows and is easy to follow?
- Did you use the appropriate transition?
  - For example, if you are transitioning to a source with a similar point/argument, don't use transitions like *however* and *but*. Use transitions that show similarity like *furthermore*, *likewise*, etc.
  - Similar to Lynch's point that \_\_\_\_\_, Haven argues...

## Practice - continued

### 4. Sentence variety

- Read each of your body paragraphs. Are most sentences structured the same? Are most sentences the same length? If so, your writing can become monotonous for readers.

For each body paragraph, improve your sentence variety by doing the following:

- Combine two sentences and make them a longer sentence.
- Shorten some sentences, especially a sentence in which you are making an argument/stating a point. You don't want your argument to get lost in a long sentence.

Continued on next slide



## Practice - continued

### 4. Sentence variety

- Choose 2-3 sentences and vary the way you begin them.
  - For example, begin one sentence with a prepositional phrase.
  - Begin another sentence with a participial phrase.
  - You can also begin with a dependent clause.

For more information about phrases and clauses, click the links below.

- Participial and prepositional phrases - click [here](#)
- Dependent clauses - click [here](#)

## Practice - continued

### 5. Your conclusions and connections

- Reread your body paragraphs. Highlight (or underline) each sentence in which you state a conclusion you've come to or a connection you've made between or among sources.
  - Do not highlight any sentence that is a direct quotation, a paraphrase, or a summary from a source.
- Have you highlighted sentences in each body paragraph? If you haven't take some time and try to add 2-3 sentences that state your conclusions and/or connections. Doing so improves the quality of your synthesis writing.



## Additional resources

If you feel like you need additional help with synthesis writing, we have included some helpful resources below.

- Video: Working with a previous prompt from the AP exam (click [here](#))
- Text: Preparing for the synthesis essay - College Board website (click [here](#))
- Text: Samples and scoring commentary - College Board website (click [here](#))