

## PROMPT

1. As you read the prompt, identify the author's purpose and consider the rhetorical situation.
2. Understanding the context of the text will help you understand what obstacles the speaker faced in achieving his/her purpose.
3. Pay special attention to the audience(s). What strategies could the speaker use to appeal to X audience?
  - a. Example: If the speaker is addressing a religious group, he/she could appeal to the audience's religious ideals.

## READING FOR PARAGRAPH TOPICS

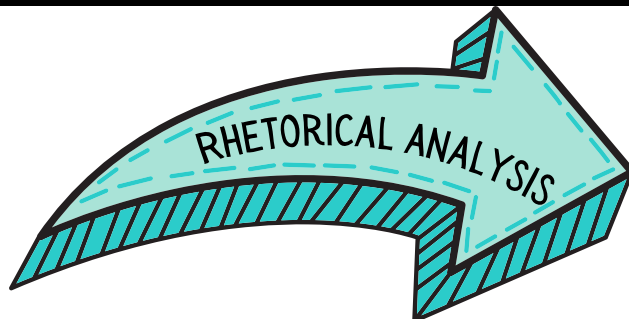
1. As you begin reading, focus on identifying how the speaker tailored his/her piece for the audience(s).
2. These tactics will become your body paragraph topics.

## READING FOR EVIDENCE

1. Each time you identify a method the speaker employed to convince the audience(s), begin text marking for the rhetorical choices the speaker has utilized to develop these tactics.
2. The goal is to find several rhetorical choices per method to analyze in your body paragraph. This will help you to connect how the author's choices work together to achieve the intended effect.

## CRAFTING AN INTRODUCTION

1. Begin your introduction by setting the scene of the text.
2. It is critical that you do NOT just repeat the contextual information in the prompt.
3. Instead, consider the information in the prompt and/or text and mention something about the rhetorical situation that you know from your background knowledge or that can be inferred.
4. Make sure to transition to your thesis statement. This should be done with no more than one sentence.
5. Finally, conclude your introduction with your thesis statement.
6. It is CRITICAL that your thesis statement does NOT restate the prompt.
7. If you state the author's purpose and HOW he/she achieved it, you have an acceptable thesis. The "how" can be your listed body paragraph topics (closed thesis) or an umbrella statement that broadly covers your paragraph topics (open thesis).



## **POTENTIAL METHODS OF PERSUASION**

1. Below is a list of common ways an author may try to appeal to an audience. This list is NOT exhaustive and is designed to merely give you an idea of what a good body paragraph could be.
  - a. Community Ties
  - b. Fear
  - c. Greater Good
  - d. Humor
  - e. Morals/beliefs
  - f. Patriotism/nationalism
  - g. Shame
2. Remember, that the more specific and insightful your analysis of the text is, the better your writing will be. You do NOT have to use these body paragraph topics.

## **NATURAL TRANSITIONS**

1. A transition's job is to draw a connection between two ideas.
2. This is why words such as "secondly" are ineffective transitions; they do not provide an explanation of how your ideas are linked.
3. In order to craft an effective transition, simply ask yourself: "What is the relationship between the two topics?" The answer is your transition.

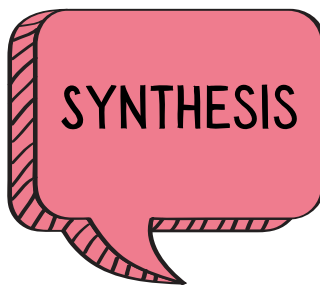
## **COMMENTARY**

1. The most effective commentary in a rhetorical analysis essay will not only analyze HOW the speaker's rhetorical choices achieves his/her purpose but also HOW that choice was made based on the speaker's knowledge of the rhetorical situation.
2. Ask yourself: "Why would this choice be effective"
  - a. in this context?
  - b. for this audience?
  - c. for this speaker?
  - d. for this subject?
  - e. based on the speaker's exigence/inspiration?



## CONCLUSIONS

1. Your conclusion should be 1-2 sentences long.
2. The goal of your conclusion should be to arrive at a conclusion or realization about the speaker's argument.
3. Now that you have analyzed his/her methods of persuasion and rhetorical choices what realizations can you make about how the elements work together to achieve the purpose? What unique insights can you make about the speaker's style and his/her career, life, impact, etc.?



## **PROMPT**



1. The synthesis prompt is four parts: introduction, assignment/prompt, writing instructions, and sources.
2. The introduction will provide you with vital information on the topic. Without this information, your argument will be ill informed and not score well.
3. It is a good strategy to establish your position and potential supporting topics before reading the sources. This ensures you are in the driver's seat controlling the argument and not simply summarizing what you find in the sources.
4. \*These prompts may ask you to take a position on a topic (defend, challenge, qualify) or to take a position on what factors should be considered for X.

## **ANALYZING THE CITATIONS**

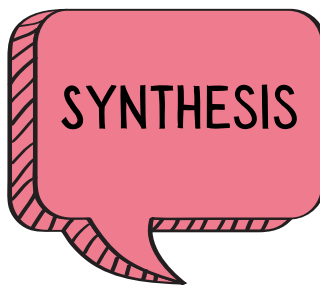


1. Before you begin reading each source, quickly scan the citation information to determine bias or any relevant information that could strengthen your argument. For example, the source may have an inherent bias or a notable reputation that you could use to establish ethos.

## **READING FOR EVIDENCE**



1. As you read, text mark evidence that will support YOUR original points about the argument.
  - a. If you read an argument about X topic, you do not want to make X one of your body paragraph topics because you would just be summarizing that author's ideas.
  - b. Instead, add information about X topic to your paragraph on Y topics.
2. Also text mark common counterarguments to your position. You will want to address at least one of the most obvious points to demonstrate your objectivity and to weaken your opponent's points.
3. Remember that you **MUST** incorporate information from at least **THREE** sources in your essay!
4. In order to ensure you include at least three sources in your essay and at least two sources in each body paragraph, make a bulleted plan before you begin to write.



## **ORGANIZATION**

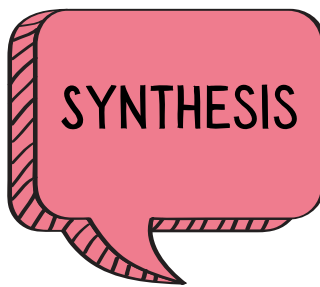
1. Each paragraph will focus on one support topic or one factor.
2. This will allow you to incorporate multiple sources into each body paragraph and draw connections between the sources. Some readers refer to this as "making the sources talk."
3. These connections or synthesis of the sources is the trademark of a high scoring essay.
4. While your counterclaim and refutation can be a separate paragraph, it is consider more sophisticated to incorporate them into a body paragraph.
5. In this case, the counterclaim would be a point against the paragraph topic, and the refutation would point out a flaw in the counterclaim followed by supporting evidence.

## **CRAFTING AN INTRODUCTION**

1. Consider the information in the introduction section of the prompt and/or texts and mention something about the topic that you know from your background knowledge or that can be inferred.
2. A good strategy is to begin by explaining why this topic is relevant/important, but whatever you do, do NOT state the following phrases: Nowadays, in today's world, etc.
3. Make sure to transition to your thesis statement in no more than one sentence.
4. Finally, conclude your introduction with your thesis statement.
5. It is CRITICAL that your thesis statement does NOT restate the prompt.
6. If you state your position on the topic and your reasoning, you have an acceptable thesis. The "reasoning" can be your listed body paragraph topics (closed thesis) or an umbrella statement that broadly covers your paragraph topics (open thesis).

## **NATURAL TRANSITIONS**

1. A transition's job is to draw a connection between two ideas.
2. This is why words such as "secondly" are ineffective transitions; they do not provide an explanation of how your ideas are linked.
3. In order to craft an effective transition, simply ask yourself: "What is the relationship between the two topics?" The answer is your transition.
4. As you transition between pieces of evidence and/or sources, be sure to explain how the the pieces of evidence support each other. This is how you build your line of reasoning. Consider:
  - a. Does the evidence corroborate similar findings from another source?
  - b. Does the evidence provide a real world example of the findings from the previous piece of evidence?



## **NATURAL TRANSITIONS**

- c. Are you introducing a counterclaim? How do you indicate that this is an oppositional point of view?
- d. Are you rebutting/refuting a counterclaim? How do you indicate the flaw in the counterclaim?

## **CITATIONS**

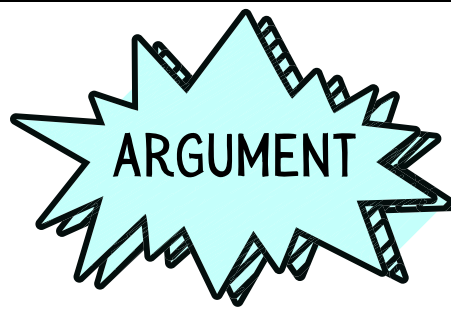
1. Remember to follow the citation instructions in the prompt.
2. ALL information from the sources (quotations, summaries, paraphrases) must be cited!

## **COMMENTARY**

1. Commentary should answer the question, "So what?"
2. You have given X piece of evidence, but why does it matter and how does it connect to your argument?
3. You must connect the dots between the evidence and your claim for the AP readers because they can only give you points for what you actually do, not what they speculate you were trying to do.
4. For example, if you are arguing that libraries are an important resource because they help foster community ties, you must not only explain HOW libraries develop these bonds but also WHY these bonds matter.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. Your conclusion should be a brief reiteration of your argument.
2. In order to avoid repeating your introduction, focus on developing a call to action or describing the possible impacts of your argument.
3. For example: How would society change without libraries? How would society change if the libraries changed but remained true to their purpose? How would society change if libraries ceased to exist?

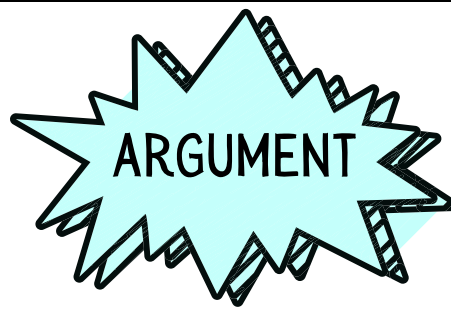


## PROMPT

1. The argument prompt is the shortest prompt because this essay is all about you!
2. As you read the prompt, circle the topic and spend a **few** minutes selecting a position and supporting evidence.
3. While it can feel risky to use this time to plan, you will make it up in the end when others have to pause to think of more evidence or even restart because they didn't pick their position wisely.
4. This type of prompt may ask you to defend, qualify, or challenge a claim or to create your own position on a general topic.
5. In the second case, it is a good idea to avoid the common topics you think your peers will select. Original and insightful thought is usually rewarded on the exam!

## BRAINSTORMING EVIDENCE

1. There are several different acronyms to help you brainstorm evidence to support your claim, but the common element is they are all designed to help you remember to select a **variety** of evidence.
2. Some of the categories for evidence include readings, entertainment, history, current events and personal experiences.
3. Only select evidence for which you can give specific details.
4. For example, if your position is that investigating the unknown is beneficial to society, and you want to use ocean exploration as an example, you will need a specific example of how exploring the oceans has helped people.
5. Do not over-rely on personal experiences. Your goal is to demonstrate your breadth of knowledge, and personal anecdotes do not achieve that goal.
6. Like the the synthesis essay, you will want to include a counterclaim and refutation.
7. Remember to always support your refutation with evidence!



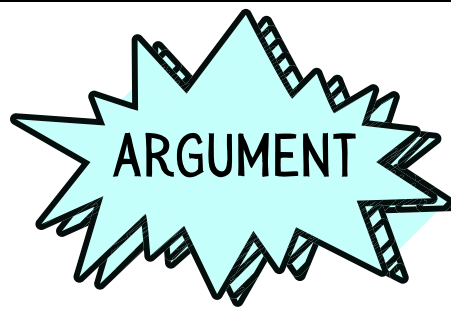
## ORGANIZATION →

1. A bulleted plan is a good investment of time for this essay. It will prevent you from selecting a unviable topic or over-relying on one category of evidence.
2. Each paragraph will focus on one support topic.
3. This will allow you to incorporate evidence from several categories into each body paragraph and to draw connections between the pieces of evidence.
4. While your counterclaim and refutation can be a separate paragraph, it is considered more sophisticated to incorporate them into a body paragraph.
5. In this case, the counterclaim would be a point against the paragraph topic and the refutation would point out a flaw in the counterclaim.

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  - a. Does the evidence corroborate similar findings from another source?
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  - c. Are you introducing a counterclaim? How do you indicate that this is an oppositional point of view?
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## COMMENTARY

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3. You must connect the dots between the evidence and your claim for the AP readers because they can only give you points for what you actually do, not what they speculate you were trying to do.
4. For example, if you are arguing that investigating the unknown is critical because of medical benefits, you must not only explain HOW medical exploration has helped humanity but also WHY continued medical research is worthwhile.

## CONCLUSION

1. Your conclusion should be a brief reiteration of your argument.
2. In order to avoid repeating your introduction, focus on developing a call to action or describing the possible impacts of your argument.
3. For example: How would society change without research into the unknown? How would society change if the research continued but was limited by guidelines? How would society change if research into the unknown ceased?