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Rhetorical Synthesis



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Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e2693197

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- *Oracles of the Pink Universe* was a 2021 exhibition at the Denver Museum of Art in Colorado.
- It featured eight artworks by South African artist Simphiwe Ndzube.
- One of these works is a painting titled *Assertion of Will*.
- *Assertion of Will* depicts three standing figures.
- The figures wear clothing made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting's canvas.

The student wants to describe how fabric is used in *Assertion of Will*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In *Assertion of Will*, the figures' clothing is made of fabric pieces stitched to the painting's canvas.
- B. The exhibition *Oracles of the Pink Universe* featured artworks by artist Simphiwe Ndzube.
- C. Depicting three standing, clothed figures, *Assertion of Will* is a painting by Simphiwe Ndzube.
- D. Simphiwe Ndzube's *Assertion of Will* was one of eight artworks exhibited in *Oracles of the Pink Universe* at the Denver Museum of Art.



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SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ca4ff52d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muslins are woven cotton fabrics with a variety of uses.
- Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric produced in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It has an extremely fine weave and is primarily used to make luxury clothing.
- Sheeting muslin is a machine-made fabric produced in factories.
- It has a coarse weave and is primarily used to upholster furniture and create backdrops for theater sets.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two muslins. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Dhaka muslin is a handmade fabric with an extremely fine weave, while sheeting muslin is machine made with a coarse weave.
- B. Dhaka muslin and sheeting muslin are two different types of woven cotton fabrics.
- C. Muslins can be used in a variety of ways, from making luxury clothing to upholstering furniture and creating backdrops for theater sets.
- D. Sheeting muslin is machine made, has a coarse weave, and is used for furniture and theater sets.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 296801d2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Azores is a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal.
- Historians have long believed that in the fifteenth century Portuguese mariners were the first humans to populate the Azores.
- A 2015 study coauthored by Sofia Gabriel and Maria da Luz Mathias found that Vikings from Scandinavia may have populated the Azores as early as the ninth century.
- The researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and house mice in Scandinavia.
- House mice may have traveled from Scandinavia to the Azores on Viking ships.

The student wants to specify who may have first populated the Azores, according to the 2015 study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Historians have long believed that the first humans to populate the Azores, a group of islands about 870 miles off the coast of Portugal, arrived in the fifteenth century.
- B. Portuguese mariners may not have been the first humans to populate the Azores.
- C. In their 2015 study, the researchers found a genetic connection between house mice in the Azores and those in Scandinavia.
- D. According to a 2015 study, the first humans to populate the Azores may have been Vikings from Scandinavia, not mariners from Portugal as previously believed.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: a3204ab0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Yellowstone is a national park in the northwest United States.
- In 1995, gray wolves were reintroduced into the park.
- Since then, the number of gray wolves in the park has stabilized at roughly 100.
- This number is believed to be the park's carrying capacity.
- Carrying capacity describes the maximum number of a species that a specific environment's resources can sustain over time.

The student wants to specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Gray wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States, in 1995.
- B. As of 1995, there were gray wolves living in Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States.
- C. The carrying capacity of an environment, such as Yellowstone, describes the maximum number of species that the environment can sustain over time.
- D. Yellowstone is a national park that has roughly 100 gray wolves living in it.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 00460c13

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Novelist Willa Cather grew up in Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- Some of Cather’s best-known novels are set in Nebraska.
- Two such novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).
- Cather’s novels describe the experiences of immigrants who settled in the Great Plains.

The student wants to identify the setting of Cather’s novel *My Ántonia*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *My Ántonia* is set in Nebraska, where Cather grew up.
- B. Cather, author of *My Ántonia*, described the experiences of immigrants in her novels.
- C. Among Cather’s best-known novels are *O Pioneers!* (1913) and *My Ántonia* (1918).
- D. Cather attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and set some of her novels in Nebraska.



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ID: f4b63a04

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2013, paleontology professor Hesham Sallam and his students from Mansoura University in Egypt made a discovery.
- The team found a partial dinosaur skeleton at a site in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis.
- The skeleton belonged to a dinosaur species that lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it.

The student wants to explain the origin of the species' name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *Mansourasaurus*, a new species discovered in Egypt in 2013, lived approximately 80 million years ago.
- B. A partial dinosaur skeleton found in Egypt's Dakhla Oasis belonged to a species named *Mansourasaurus*.
- C. *Mansourasaurus*, a species that lived approximately 80 million years ago, was discovered in 2013 by Egyptian paleontologist Hesham Sallam and a team of university students.
- D. The new species was named *Mansourasaurus* to recognize the team that discovered it, a professor and students from Mansoura University.



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ID: 1792fa73

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The tundra is a type of environment characterized by especially harsh winter conditions.
- Winter temperatures in the tundra average a frigid –30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Animals that have adapted to these conditions can survive tundra winters.
- During the tundra’s short growing season, average temperatures can reach a relatively mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Around 1,700 different kinds of plants are able to grow in the tundra.

The student wants to emphasize how harsh the conditions can be in the tundra. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Winters in the tundra are especially harsh, with temperatures averaging a frigid –30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- B. Animals that have adapted to harsh winter conditions can survive tundra winters.
- C. There are around 1,700 different kinds of plants that can live in the tundra, where average temperatures can reach a mild 54 degrees Fahrenheit.
- D. Along with animals that have adapted to the tundra’s conditions, around 1,700 different kinds of plants can live in the tundra.



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SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ff3865b3

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A wok is a cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty (206 BCE–220 CE).
- The wok's round, wide base helps to cook food evenly.
- The wok's high, angled sides help to contain oil splatters.
- Grace Young is a cook and culinary historian.
- Her book *The Breath of a Wok* (2004) traces the history of the wok.

The student wants to describe the wok's shape. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Grace Young's 2004 book, *The Breath of a Wok*, traces the history of the cooking pan.
- B. Able to cook food evenly and contain oil splatters, the wok is the subject of Grace Young's 2004 book.
- C. A wok is a cooking pan with a round, wide base and high, angled sides.
- D. The design of a wok, a type of cooking pan that originated in China during the Han dynasty, helps the pan cook food evenly and contain oil splatters.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6b5bc97d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Sasanian Empire lasted about 400 years (AD 224 to AD 651).
- The Sasanians controlled an area spanning 1.4 million square miles.
- This area included present-day Iran and Iraq.
- The empire's capital was the ancient city of Ctesiphon.
- Ctesiphon was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.

The student wants to specify the location of Ctesiphon. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Sasanian Empire began in AD 224 and ended in AD 651.
- B. The capital of the Sasanian Empire, which spanned 1.4 million square miles, was Ctesiphon.
- C. The Sasanians controlled an area of 1.4 million square miles, including present-day Iran and Iraq.
- D. Ctesiphon, the capital of the Sasanian Empire, was located near present-day Baghdad, Iraq.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: fbffb352

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Archaeologist Dr. Sada Mire founded the Horn Heritage Foundation to preserve the cultural history of regions in the Horn of Africa.
- Horn Heritage has overseen a preservation project to create 3D digital scans of ancient rock art in Somaliland.
- Paintings found at the Laas Geel caves are included in the scans.
- The Laas Geel paintings feature human figures and animals.
- Paintings found at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves are included in the scans.
- The Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature what are thought to be the earliest examples of writing in East Africa.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The earliest examples of writing in East Africa are thought to be featured in the paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves in Somaliland.
- B. The paintings at the Dhagah Nabi Galay caves feature examples of writing, while those at the Laas Geel caves feature humans and animals.
- C. In Somaliland, the paintings in the Laas Geel caves feature human figures and animals.
- D. The Laas Geel paintings and the Dhagah Nabi Galay paintings are both examples of ancient rock art found in Somaliland.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ba263620

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1897, African American inventor Andrew Beard invented an automatic coupler.
- It improved on the existing design of train car couplers.
- It made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- In 1938, African American inventor Frederick Jones invented a mobile refrigeration system.
- It improved on the existing design of food transport trucks.
- It enabled trucks to carry perishable foods farther.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between Beard's invention and Jones's invention. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Beard's automatic coupler and Jones's mobile refrigeration system both improved on existing designs.
- B. In 1897, Beard invented an automatic coupler, which made the job of connecting train cars safer.
- C. Beard's invention made the job of connecting train cars safer, whereas Jones's invention enabled food transport trucks to carry perishables farther.
- D. Jones's mobile refrigeration system, which he invented in 1938, made it possible for food transport trucks to carry perishable foods farther.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: eaded344

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The painter Frida Kahlo is one of the most influential artists of the twentieth century.
- She was born in Coyoacán, Mexico, in 1907.
- She is best known for her vivid and richly symbolic self-portraits.
- *The Two Fridas* (1939) features two versions of Kahlo sitting together.
- One version wears a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.

The student wants to introduce Kahlo to an audience unfamiliar with the artist. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Known for being vivid and richly symbolic, Frida Kahlo's self-portraits include *The Two Fridas* (1939).
- B. The 1939 painting *The Two Fridas* is one example of a self-portrait by Frida Kahlo.
- C. One painting by Frida Kahlo features two versions of herself, with one version wearing a European-style dress and the other a traditional Tehuana dress.
- D. One of the most influential artists of the twentieth century, Mexican painter Frida Kahlo is best known for her self-portraits, which are vivid and richly symbolic.



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SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: e3484c07

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Bioluminescence is the emission of light by living organisms.
- This light is produced by chemical reactions in organisms' cells.
- Jellyfish emit flashes of blue light.
- This behavior serves to startle predators.
- Black dragonfish emit a steady red light.
- This behavior helps them locate prey in deep waters.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the behavior of jellyfish and that of black dragonfish. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Both jellyfish and black dragonfish are organisms that emit light, which is produced by chemical reactions in these organisms' cells.
- B. Black dragonfish emit a steady red light, which helps them locate prey in deep waters.
- C. Bioluminescence, the emission of light by living organisms, results from chemical reactions in organisms' cells.
- D. Jellyfish emit light to startle predators, whereas black dragonfish do so to locate prey.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: d7f31e68

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Annie Wu is a prominent American flutist who graduated from the New England Conservatory.
- She has won multiple national flute competitions.
- She is best known for a 2011 YouTube video that has been viewed over two million times.
- The video shows her performing *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute*, an original work by composer Greg Pattillo.
- Wu combines flute playing and beatboxing in the video.

The student wants to emphasize Wu's most well-known achievement. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Annie Wu, who has won multiple national flute competitions, has also combined flute playing and beatboxing.
- B. Among her many achievements, prominent American flutist Annie Wu graduated from the New England Conservatory and has won multiple national flute competitions.
- C. Annie Wu is best known for a 2011 YouTube video performance of *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* that has been viewed over two million times.
- D. Composer Greg Pattillo's original work *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute* combines flute playing and beatboxing.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: b46e0c8a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Organisms release cellular material into their environment by shedding substances such as hair or skin.
- The DNA in these substances is known as environmental DNA, or eDNA.
- Researchers collect and analyze eDNA to detect the presence of species that are difficult to observe.
- Geneticist Sara Oyler-McCance’s research team analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades to detect invasive constrictor snake species in the area.
- The study determined a 91% probability of detecting Burmese python eDNA in a given location.

The student wants to present the study to an audience already familiar with environmental DNA. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Sara Oyler-McCance’s researchers analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades for evidence of invasive constrictor snakes, which are difficult to observe.
- B. An analysis of eDNA can detect the presence of invasive species that are difficult to observe, such as constrictor snakes.
- C. Researchers found Burmese python eDNA, or environmental DNA, in water samples; eDNA is the DNA in released cellular materials, such as shed skin cells.
- D. Sara Oyler-McCance’s researchers analyzed environmental DNA (eDNA)—that is, DNA from cellular materials released by organisms—in water samples from the Florida Everglades.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: aa7e10d0

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Species belonging to the Orchidaceae (orchid) family can be found in both tropical and temperate environments.
- Orchidaceae species diversity has not been well studied in temperate forests, such as those in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández led a study to determine how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca.
- Muñoz-Hernández and her team collected orchids each month for a year at a site in Oaxaca.
- Seventy-four Orchidaceae species were present at the site.

The student wants to present the study and its findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A study led by Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández identified a total of 74 Orchidaceae species in the temperate forests of Oaxaca, Mexico.
- B. There are orchids in many environments, but there are 74 Orchidaceae species in Oaxaca, Mexico.
- C. Oaxaca, Mexico, is home to temperate forests containing 74 Orchidaceae species.
- D. Arelee Estefanía Muñoz-Hernández and her team wanted to know how many different Orchidaceae species are present in the forests of Oaxaca, Mexico, so they conducted a study to collect orchids.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 84e108cf

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Platinum is a rare and expensive metal.
- It is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions.
- Platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum with liquid gallium.
- Their catalyst was highly effective and required only trace amounts of platinum (0.0001% of the atoms in the mixture).

The student wants to explain an advantage of the new platinum catalyst developed by Jianbo Tang and his colleagues. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Researcher Jianbo Tang and his colleagues created a platinum catalyst that combines platinum, a rare and expensive metal, with liquid gallium.
- B. Like other platinum catalysts, the new platinum catalyst requires a particular amount of the metal to be effective.
- C. Platinum is a rare and expensive metal that is used as a catalyst for chemical reactions; however, platinum catalysts typically require a large amount of platinum to be effective.
- D. While still highly effective, the new platinum catalyst requires far less of the rare and expensive metal than do other platinum catalysts.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 883493d5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Allan Houser was a Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache sculptor, illustrator, and painter.
- Many of his sculptures featured Native American figures.
- He depicted this subject matter using abstract, modernist forms, developing a distinctive style that influenced many other artists.
- His well-known sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* was pictured on the State of Oklahoma license plate.

The student wants to describe the distinctive style of Houser's sculptures. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. A sculptor, illustrator, and painter, Houser developed a distinctive style for portraying Native American figures.
- B. Houser's sculptures employ abstract, modernist forms to depict Native American figures.
- C. Many other artists have been influenced by the style of Houser's sculptures.
- D. The sculpture *Sacred Rain Arrow* is a well-known example of Houser's style.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 6249b173

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 2018 researchers Adwait Deshpande, Shreejata Gupta, and Anindya Sinha were observing wild macaques in India's Bandipur National Park.
- They saw macaques calling out to and gesturing at humans who were eating or carrying food.
- They designed a study to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade the humans to share their food.
- In the study trials, macaques frequently called out to and gestured at humans holding food.
- In the study trials, macaques called out to and gestured at empty-handed humans less frequently.

The student wants to present the study's results. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Macaques in the study called out to and gestured more frequently at humans holding food than at empty-handed humans.
- B. In 2018, researchers who had observed macaques in India's Bandipur National Park calling out to and gesturing at humans designed a study.
- C. The researchers hoped to find out if the macaques were intentionally communicating to try to persuade humans to share their food.
- D. The researchers studied how macaques behaved around both humans holding food and empty-handed humans.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: dd11e5ab

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Muckrakers were journalists who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era (1897–1920).
- Ida Tarbell was a muckraker who investigated the Standard Oil Company.
- She interviewed Standard Oil Company executives, oil industry workers, and public officials.
- She examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications, including letters and financial records.
- Her book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* (1904) exposed the company's unfair business practices.

The student wants to emphasize the thoroughness of Ida Tarbell's investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications.
- B. Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era, 1897–1920).
- C. As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.
- D. Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell's book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company's unfair business practices.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 74149724

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- John Carver was one of the 41 signatories of the Mayflower Compact.
- The Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- It was created in 1620 to establish a common government.
- It states that the pilgrims who signed it wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia” under King James.
- Carver became the first governor of Plymouth Colony.

The student wants to specify the reason the Mayflower Compact was created. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Stating that its signatories wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia,” the Mayflower Compact was a legal agreement among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- B. Created in 1620, the Mayflower Compact states that the pilgrims wanted to “plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia.”
- C. The Mayflower Compact was created to establish a common government among the pilgrims that immigrated to Plymouth Colony.
- D. The Mayflower Compact had 41 signatories, including John Carver, the first governor of Plymouth Colony.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 8432a140

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs.
- Coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems that provide habitats to 25% of all marine species.
- Reefs can include up to 8,000 species of fish, such as toadfish, seahorses, and clown triggerfish.
- The Amazon Reef is a coral reef in Brazil.
- It is one of the largest known reefs in the world.

The student wants to introduce the scientist and her field of study to a new audience. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Located in Brazil, the Amazon Reef is one of the largest known coral reefs in the world.
- B. Marine biologist Camille Jazmin Gaynus studies coral reefs, vital underwater ecosystems that provide homes to 25% of all marine species.
- C. Providing homes to 25% of all marine species, including up to 8,000 species of fish, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems and thus of great interest to marine biologists.
- D. As Camille Jazmin Gaynus knows well, coral reefs are vital underwater ecosystems, providing homes to thousands of species of fish.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: bce57278

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some US reformers sought to improve society in the 1800s by building utopias.
- A utopia is a community intended to represent a perfect society based on a specific set of principles.
- One such community was Brook Farm near Boston, Massachusetts.
- It was founded in 1841 by writer George Ripley.
- Ripley wrote in a letter that his goal for Brook Farm was “to guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor, adapted to their tastes and talents, and securing to them the fruits of their industry.”

The student wants to explain the goal of Brook Farm using a quotation from George Ripley. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In a letter, writer George Ripley explained his goal to “guarantee the highest mental freedom.”
- B. Utopias, such as Brook Farm, founded by George Ripley in 1841, were based on a specific set of principles intended to create a perfect society.
- C. Founded by George Ripley near Boston, Massachusetts, Brook Farm was part of a trend in the 1800s, when reformers in the United States built utopias.
- D. Established in 1841, Brook Farm was a utopian community created to “guarantee the highest mental freedom, by providing all with labor... [and] the fruits of their industry,” according to founder George Ripley.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 1b94a80a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Wool is a natural—and economically important—fiber that is obtained from animals like sheep.
- Australia is a leading producer of wool.
- The thickness of wool fibers varies across sheep breeds.
- Merino sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Rambouillet sheep produce fine wool that is used for apparel.
- Romney sheep produce thick wool that is used for rugs and blankets.

The student wants to emphasize how Romney wool differs from Merino and Rambouillet wool. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Romney wool is just one of the many kinds of wools, each originating from a different breed of sheep.
- B. Sheep wool varies from breed to breed, so Romney wool will be different than other kinds of wool.
- C. The fine wool produced by Merino and Rambouillet sheep is used for apparel, whereas the thicker wool of Romney sheep is used in rugs and blankets.
- D. Wool is an economically important fiber—especially in Australia—that can be used to make apparel or even rugs and blankets.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 56cad44a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations.
- Surface-dwelling tetras live on the surface and are able to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras live in total darkness and have lost the ability to see.
- Cave-dwelling tetras have asymmetrical skulls with more sensory receptors on one side than the other.
- These receptors help cave-dwelling tetras navigate in darkness.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Surface-dwelling and cave-dwelling tetras may belong to the same species, but they are quite different.
- B. Cave-dwelling tetras can no longer see but use sensory receptors on their skulls to navigate.
- C. Mexican tetras are a fish species with two distinct populations: surface-dwelling tetras and cave-dwelling tetras.
- D. Surface-dwelling tetras can see, whereas cave-dwelling tetras cannot.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 81315093

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A marathon is a long-distance running race that is 26.2 miles long.
- An ultramarathon is a long-distance running race of more than 26.2 miles.
- The Kepler Challenge is a one-day, 37.3-mile ultramarathon in New Zealand.
- The Spreelauf is a six-day, 261-mile ultramarathon in Germany.

The student wants to make a generalization about ultramarathons. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Examples of ultramarathons include the 37.3-mile Kepler Challenge in New Zealand and the 261-mile Spreelauf in Germany.
- B. A marathon is 26.2 miles long, but the Spreelauf ultramarathon, at 261 miles, is far longer.
- C. Ultramarathons range widely in length, from a few dozen miles to a few hundred.
- D. While the Kepler Challenge is a one-day ultramarathon, the Spreelauf is a six-day ultramarathon.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 49fe306b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a single spot in the sky.
- This spot is called the meteor shower's radiant.
- The Perseid meteor shower is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- Like many meteor showers, it is named for the location of its radiant.
- Its radiant is located within the constellation Perseus.

The student wants to explain the origin of the Perseid meteor shower's name. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Perseid meteor shower is named for the constellation Perseus, the location of the meteor shower's radiant.
- B. A meteor shower's name may be linked to a single spot in the sky.
- C. The Perseid meteor shower, which has a radiant, is visible in the northern hemisphere in July and August.
- D. From Earth, all the meteors in a meteor shower appear to originate from a radiant, such as the one within Perseus.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 164a32e7

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Claude McKay (1889–1948) was a Jamaican American writer.
- *Songs of Jamaica* (1912) and *Constab Ballads* (1912) are two acclaimed poetry collections that McKay published while living in Jamaica.
- McKay moved to Harlem in New York City in 1914.
- He is best known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance, a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s.
- His most famous works include the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928).

The student wants to emphasize Claude McKay's accomplishments before moving to Harlem. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Jamaican American writer Claude McKay is the author of works such as *Songs of Jamaica* (1912), *Constab Ballads* (1912), *Harlem Shadows* (1922), and *Home to Harlem* (1928).
- B. Although he is best known as a Harlem Renaissance writer, Claude McKay had published two acclaimed poetry collections in 1912 while living in Jamaica: *Songs of Jamaica* and *Constab Ballads*.
- C. In 1914, Claude McKay moved to Harlem, where he would become known as a poet and novelist of the Harlem Renaissance (a literary and cultural movement of the 1920s and 1930s).
- D. Before moving to Harlem, Claude McKay—author of the poetry collection *Harlem Shadows* (1922) and the novel *Home to Harlem* (1928)—lived in Jamaica.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 7aac173e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Architect Julian Abele studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe.
- Abele worked for an architecture firm that was hired in 1924 to design buildings for Duke University's new campus.
- Most of the buildings on Duke's campus were designed in the Gregorian or neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- At the time, Abele was not formally credited with designing the buildings.
- Based on the buildings' architectural styles, historians believe Abele designed most of the campus buildings.

The student wants to specify why historians believe Abele designed most of Duke's campus buildings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Given that most of the buildings on Duke's campus feature architectural styles that Abele had studied in Europe, historians believe Abele is the one who designed them.
- B. Though Abele wasn't formally credited at the time, historians believe he designed most of the buildings on Duke's campus.
- C. Most of Duke's campus buildings, which were designed by a firm Abele worked for, were designed in the Gregorian and neo-Gothic architectural styles.
- D. Abele, an architect who studied Gregorian and neo-Gothic architecture in Europe, is believed to have designed most of the buildings on Duke's campus.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 34e1124f

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In geology, an Aeolian landform is one that has been created by the wind.
- In Greek mythology, Aeolus is the keeper of the winds.
- Aeolian landforms are created when the wind erodes, transports, or deposits material.
- A mushroom rock is a rock formation in which the top is wider than the base.
- A mushroom rock can be formed when the wind erodes the base and the top at different rates.

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Aeolian landforms. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Aeolian landforms are created by different wind-based processes; for example, some are created by wind erosion.
- B. Aeolian landforms—landforms created by the wind—include the mushroom rock, a rock formation in which the wind erodes the base of the rock faster than the top.
- C. Erosion, transportation, and deposition are three examples of how the wind can create Aeolian landforms and mushroom rocks.
- D. A mushroom rock is a rock formation that owes its shape to the wind, a natural force associated with Aeolus in Greek mythology.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ce282575

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- J.R.R. Tolkien's 1937 novel *The Hobbit* features two maps.
- The novel opens with a reproduction of the map that the characters use on their quest.
- This map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter.
- The novel closes with a map depicting every stop on the characters' journey.
- That map allows readers to reconstruct the story they have just read.

The student wants to contrast the purposes of the two maps in *The Hobbit*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *The Hobbit's* opening map introduces readers to the fictional world they are about to enter, while the closing map allows them to reconstruct the story they have just read.
- B. *The Hobbit*, a novel published by J.R.R. Tolkien in 1937, features a reproduction of a map that the characters use on their quest, as well as a map that appears at the end of the novel.
- C. *The Hobbit's* two maps, one opening and one closing the novel, each serve a purpose for readers.
- D. In 1937, author J.R.R. Tolkien published *The Hobbit*, a novel featuring both an opening and a closing map.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 1469d23a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Etel Adnan was a Lebanese American poet and artist known for making many leporellos.
- A leporello is an artist's book that is folded accordion style.
- When the book is expanded, the artist's work is revealed, and its zigzag shape allows it to stand on its own.
- Her leporello *December from My Window* (1993) features a panoramic landscape.
- It is painted using ink and watercolor.

The student wants to describe Adnan's *December from My Window* to an audience already familiar with leporellos. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Featuring a panoramic landscape, the 1993 work is one of Adnan's many leporellos, which are accordion-style folded books that when expanded reveal the artist's work.
- B. When expanded, Adnan's 1993 leporello *December from My Window* reveals a panoramic landscape painted in ink and watercolor.
- C. Known for making many other accordion-style folded books called leporellos, Adnan created *December from My Window* in 1993.
- D. A leporello, such as Adnan's *December from My Window*, is folded accordion style, and due to its zigzag shape it is able to stand on its own when fully expanded.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 3ea7372e

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the art world, the term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location.
- Such biennials are held in New York, Berlin, and Venice.
- In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the unconventional MexiCali Biennial.
- The MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on both sides of the US-Mexico border.
- The MexiCali Biennial has taken place on an uneven schedule, with exhibitions in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the MexiCali Biennial and traditional biennials. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2006, artists Ed Gomez and Luis Hernandez founded the MexiCali Biennial, which has taken place in 2006, 2009–10, 2013, and 2018–20.
- B. Unlike traditional biennials, the MexiCali Biennial hosts exhibitions in different venues on an uneven schedule.
- C. The term biennial traditionally refers to an art exhibition that takes place every two years in a single location, not to exhibitions hosted at a variety of times and venues.
- D. Biennial exhibitions have been held in New York, Berlin, and Venice but also on both sides of the US-Mexico border.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: ed80971c

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Pueblo of Zuni is located about 150 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- It is the traditional home of the A:shiwi (Zuni) people.
- The A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center was established by tribal members in 1992.
- Its mission is stated on its website: "As a tribal museum and heritage center for the Zuni people and by the Zuni people we work to provide learning experiences that emphasize A:shiwi ways of knowing, as well as exploring modern concepts of knowledge and the transfer of knowledge."

The student wants to emphasize how long the museum has existed. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. The Pueblo of Zuni is home to the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center, which was founded by tribal members.
- B. The A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center has served the Pueblo of Zuni since 1992.
- C. According to its website, the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center (founded in the 1990s) works to "emphasize A:shiwi ways of knowing."
- D. Knowledge has been one of the central themes of the A:shiwi A:wan Museum and Heritage Center from its founding.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 5a5e22b5

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Gravitational waves are powerful ripples that originate in deep space and eventually pass through Earth.
- The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) is a physics study that began in 2002.
- LIGO's goal is to detect and analyze gravitational waves.
- LIGO uses a pair of massive gravitational wave detectors called interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.
- In 2015, for the first time in history, LIGO researchers detected a gravitational wave passing through Earth.

The student wants to present LIGO's aim and methodology. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2015, LIGO's massive interferometers detected a powerful ripple that originated in deep space and eventually passed through Earth.
- B. Though the physics study LIGO began in 2002, its massive interferometers didn't detect a gravitational wave until 2015.
- C. To achieve its aims, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.
- D. A physics study designed to detect and analyze gravitational waves, LIGO uses a pair of massive interferometers that are thousands of miles apart.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: efc19153

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Just like states have state flags, some cities have city flags.
- Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags since 2015.
- The city of Pocatello, Idaho, redesigned its flag after it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- Pocatello's new flag better represents the city's mountainous geography and civic priorities.
- Residents consider the new flag to be a meaningful symbol of civic pride.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the effect of redesigning a city flag. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Over one hundred US cities have redesigned their flags, including Pocatello, whose flag had been named the most poorly designed flag in North America.
- B. Pocatello is just one of over one hundred US cities that have redesigned their flags.
- C. After it was named the most poorly designed flag in North America, the flag of Pocatello was redesigned to better represent the city's geography and civic priorities.
- D. Redesigning a poorly designed city flag can create a meaningful symbol of civic pride, as was the case when Pocatello redesigned its original flag to better represent its geography and civic priorities.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> </div>

ID: 835b101b

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Minnesota defines a lake as an inland body of water of at least 10 acres.
- Wisconsin’s definition of a lake doesn’t take size into account.
- By its own definition, Wisconsin has over 15,000 lakes, many smaller than 10 acres.
- By Minnesota’s definition, Wisconsin has only about 6,000 lakes.

The student wants to contrast Minnesota’s definition of a lake with Wisconsin’s. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Wisconsin, which doesn’t take size into account in defining a lake, claims that it has over 15,000 lakes.
- B. Because its definition of a lake is different from Minnesota’s, it is unclear how many lakes Wisconsin really has.
- C. According to Minnesota’s definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—Wisconsin has about 6,000 lakes.
- D. Minnesota’s definition of a lake—an inland body of water of at least 10 acres—is more restrictive than Wisconsin’s, which doesn’t take size into account.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>

ID: 92dec236

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Maika'i Tubbs is a Native Hawaiian sculptor and installation artist.
- His work has been shown in the United States, Canada, Japan, and Germany, among other places.
- Many of his sculptures feature discarded objects.
- His work *Erasure* (2008) includes discarded audiocassette tapes and magnets.
- His work *Home Grown* (2009) includes discarded pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.

The student wants to emphasize a similarity between the two works. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *Erasure* (2008) uses discarded objects such as audiocassette tapes and magnets; *Home Grown* (2009), however, includes pushpins, plastic plates and forks, and wood.
- B. Tubbs's work, which often features discarded objects, has been shown both within the United States and abroad.
- C. Like many of Tubbs's sculptures, both *Erasure* and *Home Grown* include discarded objects: *Erasure* uses audiocassette tapes, and *Home Grown* uses plastic forks.
- D. Tubbs completed *Erasure* in 2008 and *Home Grown* in 2009.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: afec1a70

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- As engineered structures, many bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive.
- A research team led by Yashraj Bhosale wanted to better understand the mechanics behind these structural properties.
- Bhosale's team used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks into nest-like structures.
- The researchers analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
- When pressure was applied to the model nests, the number of contact points between the sticks increased, making the structures stiffer.

The student wants to present the primary aim of the research study. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Bhosale's team wanted to better understand the mechanics behind bird nests' uniquely flexible yet cohesive structural properties.
- B. The researchers used laboratory models that simulated the arrangement of flexible sticks and analyzed the points where sticks touched one another.
- C. After analyzing the points where sticks touched, the researchers found that the structures became stiffer when pressure was applied.
- D. As analyzed by Bhosale's team, bird nests are uniquely flexible yet cohesive engineered structures.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 16631d34

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The Million Song Dataset (MSD) includes main audio features and descriptive tags for popular songs.
- Audio features include acoustic traits such as loudness and pitch intervals.
- Many algorithms use these audio features to predict a new song's popularity.
- These algorithms may fail to accurately identify main audio features of a song with varying acoustic traits.
- Algorithms based on descriptive tags that describe fixed traits such as genre are more reliable predictors of song popularity.

The student wants to explain a disadvantage of relying on audio features to predict a song's popularity. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Many popularity-predicting algorithms are based on a song's audio features, such as loudness and pitch intervals.
- B. Algorithms based on audio features may misidentify the main features of a song with varying acoustic traits, making such algorithms less reliable predictors of popularity than those based on fixed traits.
- C. Audio features describe acoustic traits such as pitch intervals, which may vary within a song, whereas descriptive tags describe fixed traits such as genre, which are reliable predictors of popularity.
- D. The MSD's descriptive tags are reliable predictors of a song's popularity, as the traits they describe are fixed.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 6c9df5d1

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Some powerful works of literature have so influenced readers that new legislation has been passed as a result.
- *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (1789) is the autobiography of a man who endured slavery on both sides of the Atlantic.
- Equiano's book contributed to the passage of the Slave Trade Act of 1807.
- *The Jungle* (1906) is a fictional work by Upton Sinclair that describes unsanitary conditions in US meatpacking plants.
- Sinclair's book contributed to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.

The student wants to emphasize a difference between the two books. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Although both are powerful works of literature that contributed to new legislation, Equiano's book is an autobiography, while Sinclair's is fictional.
- B. They may have written about different topics, but Equiano and Sinclair both influenced readers.
- C. The 1807 Slave Trade Act resulted in part from a book by Equiano, while the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act resulted in part from a book by Sinclair.
- D. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* and *The Jungle* are two works of literature that contributed to new legislation (concerning the slave trade and food safety, respectively).



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 64e88c58

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1971, experimental musician Pauline Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*.
- *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based exercises called meditations.
- Each meditation consists of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- The instructions for Meditation V state, “walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears.”
- Those for Meditation XVIII state, “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”

The student wants to provide an explanation and an example of Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. *Sonic Meditations* is not music but rather a series of sound-based meditations that consist of instructions; Meditation XVIII, for instance, instructs participants to “listen to a sound until you no longer recognize it.”
- B. In 1971, Oliveros created *Sonic Meditations*, a series of meditations that consist of instructions for participants to make, imagine, listen to, or remember sounds.
- C. “Walk so silently that the bottoms of your feet become ears” is one example of the instructions found in Oliveros’s *Sonic Meditations*.
- D. While both meditations consist of instructions, Meditation XVIII instructs participants to “listen,” whereas Meditation V instructs participants to “walk.”



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: af88c47a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Freddie Wong (born 1985) is a director and special effects artist from the United States.
- He is best known for the action-comedy web series *Video Game High School* (VGHS).
- VGHS premiered in 2012 on RocketJump, a YouTube channel that Wong cocreated.
- The series was celebrated for its inventive video game-centric world and high-quality special effects.
- VGHS was nominated for a Producers Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.

The student wants to begin a narrative about Wong’s award-nominated web series. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. In 2012, director and visual effects artist Freddie Wong launched a new action-comedy web series: *Video Game High School*.
- B. *Video Game High School* was celebrated for its inventive video game-centric world and high-quality special effects, and it was nominated for a Producer’s Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.
- C. Wong, cocreator of the YouTube channel RocketJump, would go on to see his web series be nominated for a Producers Guild Award.
- D. In 2012, *Video Game High School* premiered on RocketJump; it would later be nominated for an award.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: fdd9a360

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- The popular wood-wide web theory posits that trees can communicate and exchange resources with one another via common mycorrhizal networks (CMNs) of fungi.
- Ecologist Dr. Suzanne Simard first suggested this theory in 1997.
- She described trees as "super-cooperators."
- In the 2022 study "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," mycologist Dr. Justine Karst and colleagues evaluated dozens of CMN studies.
- They write that CMNs "have captured the interest of broad audiences. We are concerned, however, that recent claims about CMNs in forests are disconnected from evidence."

The student wants to use a quotation to emphasize a potential problem with the wood-wide web theory. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Describing trees as "super-cooperators," Simard first suggested that trees can exchange resources with one another in 1997.
- B. In "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," Karst and colleagues note that common mycorrhizal networks "have captured the interest of broad audiences."
- C. After evaluating dozens of CMN studies, Karst and colleagues expressed concern that recent claims about common mycorrhizal networks are "disconnected from evidence."
- D. Despite the concerns expressed in the 2022 study "The Decay of the Wood-Wide Web?," the wood-wide web theory remains popular.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 10cd0327

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A thermal inversion is a phenomenon where a layer of atmosphere is warmer than the layer beneath it.
- In 2022, a team of researchers studied the presence of thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants.
- Gas giants are planets largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- The team found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were also likely to contain heat-absorbing metals.
- One explanation for this relationship is that these metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere, where their absorbed heat causes an increase in temperature.

The student wants to present the study's findings to an audience already familiar with thermal inversions. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Heat-absorbing metals may reside in a planet's upper atmosphere.
- B. The team studied thermal inversions in twenty-five gas giants, which are largely composed of helium and hydrogen.
- C. Researchers found that gas giants featuring a thermal inversion were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals, which may reside in the planets' upper atmospheres.
- D. Gas giants were likely to contain heat-absorbing metals when they featured a layer of atmosphere warmer than the layer beneath it, researchers found; this phenomenon is known as a thermal inversion.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 1773fa73

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- A commodity chain is the series of links connecting the production and purchase of a commodity on the world market.
- Chinese American anthropologist Anna Tsing studies the contemporary commodity chain of matsutake mushrooms.
- At one end of the matsutake chain are mushroom pickers in Oregon.
- At the other end are wealthy consumers who buy the costly matsutake in Japan.
- According to Tsing, "Japanese traders began importing matsutake in the 1980s, when the scarcity of matsutake in Japan first became clear."

The student wants to provide an overview of the matsutake commodity chain. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- The contemporary matsutake commodity chain has its origins in the 1980s when, according to Tsing, "the scarcity of matsutake in Japan first became clear."
- Commodity chains include the linked production and purchase of commodities, such as the matsutake mushroom, on the world market.
- Decades after the Japanese import of matsutake began, a commodity chain now links matsutake pickers in Oregon with wealthy consumers of the costly mushrooms in Japan.
- Wealthy consumers who buy the costly mushrooms in Japan are at one end of the matsutake commodity chain.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 5b8b69a2

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Archaeologist Jon Erlandson and colleagues argue that humans first arrived in the Americas by sea.
- They propose that humans traveled between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines from northeast Asia to the Americas.
- Many of these islands and coastal zones were later submerged as glaciers melted and sea levels rose.
- The researchers think that “a coastal route, including kelp forests and estuaries, would have provided a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources” such as seaweeds, fish, and birds.
- This proposed scenario is known as the kelp highway hypothesis.

The student wants to summarize the kelp highway hypothesis. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines likely contained “a rich mix of marine, estuarine, riverine, and terrestrial resources” such as seaweeds, fish, and birds, according to researchers.
- B. One argument about how humans first arrived in the Americas is the kelp highway hypothesis proposed by Jon Erlandson and colleagues.
- C. Humans may have first arrived in the Americas by sea, traveling between Pacific Ocean islands and coastlines and subsisting on a variety of resources.
- D. As glaciers melted and sea levels rose, many Pacific Ocean islands and coastal zones were submerged.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 5222ffab

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Neuroscientists Krishnan Padmanabhan and Zhen Chen sought to better understand the workings of the brain's olfactory system.
- They devised a study using mathematical models.
- They found that certain fibers allow the brain to toggle from one method of processing smells to another.
- In one method, cells in the piriform cortex (where the perception of odor forms) capture olfactory information at a given moment.
- In the other, the cells track changes in olfactory information over time.

The student wants to summarize the study's findings. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- To arrive at these findings, which describe dual methods of processing smells in the piriform cortex, Padmanabhan and Chen devised a study using mathematical models.
- Padmanabhan and Chen showed that olfactory information is captured by cells in the piriform cortex, where the perception of odor forms.
- Using mathematical models, Padmanabhan and Chen devised a study to better understand the workings of the brain's olfactory system.
- According to Padmanabhan and Chen, the brain can toggle between capturing olfactory information at a given moment and tracking changes in that information over time.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 3dcc7140

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Nissologists are scientists who study islands.
- Some nissologists define an island as any piece of land surrounded by water.
- Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 221,000 islands.
- Other nissologists define an island as being 1 kilometer square, a certain distance from the mainland, and having at least 50 permanent residents.
- Using that definition, they determined that Sweden has 24 islands.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about nissologists’ definition of an island. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish these goals?

- A. The definition of an island as any piece of land surrounded by water is supported by some nissologists, scientists who study islands.
- B. Multiple counts of Sweden’s islands have been based on different definitions of an island.
- C. Based on a recent count, Sweden has a relatively small number of islands with at least 50 permanent residents.
- D. Nissologists’ different definitions can result in huge disparities in counts of islands, as the example of Sweden shows.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: 622a351d

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In 1978, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway.
- The dam would disrupt Sámi fishing and reindeer herding.
- The dam was ultimately built, but the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- It brought international attention to the issue of Sámi rights.
- It led to a set of 2005 legal protections establishing Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.

The student wants to make and support a generalization about the Alta conflict. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. During the Alta conflict, Sámi activists staged protests to block the construction of a dam on the Alta River in Norway that would disrupt local fishing and reindeer herding.
- B. Although the dam that the Sámi activists had protested was ultimately built, the Alta conflict had a lasting impact.
- C. Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources received international attention and legal protections as a result of the Alta conflict.
- D. The Alta conflict had a lasting impact, resulting in international attention and legal protections for Sámi rights to lands, waters, and resources.



Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■ ■ ■

ID: db3ad406

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Stars form in a galaxy when gravity causes a massive cloud of dust and gas to collapse.
- A galaxy in a phase of rapid star formation is called a starburst galaxy.
- Quenching is a process in which a galaxy loses star-forming gas.
- A galaxy that no longer forms stars is called a quenched galaxy.
- A quenched galaxy has entered the poststarburst phase.

The student wants to explain what a quenched galaxy is. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

- A. Before quenching, a starburst galaxy will form stars at a rapid rate.
- B. When it becomes quenched, a starburst galaxy enters the poststarburst phase.
- C. Having entered the poststarburst phase, a quenched galaxy is one that no longer forms stars.
- D. A starburst galaxy will lose star-forming gas and eventually become quenched.