

Synthesis Practice 1: Apprenticeships **Due Wednesday, 3/8 by 11:59 PM to Canvas**

Answer the prompt by completing the chart. Be sure your response relies on **at least three sources** for support. Add a line or two of commentary about how you will use a source. Then, draft a body paragraph.

Compose a thesis statement that addresses the extent to which an apprenticeship is a viable alternative to attending college. Then, select at least three pieces of evidence from the sources to support your position, briefly explaining how each piece of evidence might be used to develop your argument.

Plan your essay in the chart below. **Feel free to make changes to the chart to reflect a plan for your specific ideas.** (For example, you can use multiple sources in a single body PP and/or include a counterargument and rebuttal.)

Thesis: While it is true that apprenticeships provide the short end of the stick for long-term success in terms of professionals that require solid educational foundations, apprenticeships provide a strong alternative to attending college because they provide early experience in the workforce allowing young adults to gain profitable and hands-on learning that reduce debt and thoroughly expand their career pathways.	
Body Pp 1 Main Idea/Supporting Claim 1: Apprenticeships allow for hands-on exploration of different career pathways that reduce unemployment rates.	Support from Source A: "In Switzerland...Beginning in 10th grade, students rotate among employers, industry organizations and school for three to four years of training and mentoring. Learning is hands-on, and they are paid. Switzerland's unemployment rate for the young is the lowest in Europe and about a quarter that of the United States". CM: Compares US to Switzerland to show clear gap between two unemployment rates. Shows how Switzerland putting focus on vocational learning allows for educational pathways to be expanded and legitimized.
Body Pp 2 Main Idea/Supporting Claim 2: Apprenticeships are highly beneficial as they give students the opportunity to gain firsthand working experience and get ahead of their peers when it comes to finding a job and earning a salary.	Support from Source B: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Relies entirely on anecdotal evidence and personal experienceShe achieved success in her field and a decent salary much quicker than her friends that attended a university CM: First-hand experience. Although an apprenticeship clearly worked out for her, it will not necessarily work out for everyone as not everyone will be able to secure the opportunity for an apprenticeship and some jobs prefer people with a degree.
Body Pp 3 Main Idea/Supporting Claim 3: While those vocationally trained are well-adjusted initially, they struggle when the economic environment changes because they are too used to that environment and lack the college-provided education necessary to adapt.	Support from Source C: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussion on the European system of vocational education, which stresses specific job-related studies. The authors emphasize that, while an upside that many agree on is that the youth finds entry into fields more easily, it becomes more difficult over time to adjust to technology and therefore to keep their jobs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A longitudinal study that demonstrates the long term disadvantages of vocational training, specifically pointing to a turnaround at the age of 50 that is shown in all sampled countries, particularly Denmark, Germany and Switzerland (which are considered “apprenticeship countries”). This further emphasizes a point at which an apprenticeship’s benefits become disadvantages <p>CM: U.S. economic climate is (and will continue to be) fickle and susceptible to changes that make certain fields obsolete or problematic. An example is COVID-19, that completely transformed jobs from in-person to remote. Also, technology reliably changes a working environment over the years, as companies will adapt more efficient ways to complete work—workers must adapt to be able to use this technology in order to make the company money (in other words, keep their jobs)..</p>
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Now, write one body paragraph in the space below. Allow the table to grow as you type.

Those who go into apprenticeships instead of college level education face long-term struggles in adjusting to the constantly changing economic environment. According to Source C, a longitudinal study that demonstrates the long term disadvantages of vocational training, specifically pointing to a turnaround at the age of 50 that is shown in all sampled countries, particularly Denmark, Germany and Switzerland (which are considered “apprenticeship countries”). While proponents of apprenticeship-based learning emphasize the initial boost in work experience and financial relief, it is shown through other countries that it can prove detrimental during midlife time. By naming specific countries that have adopted systems to what the opposition proposes, they communicate to the readers that the United States will end up the same way. An argument in the opposition is Source A which brings up Switzerland citing that the country’s unemployment rate for the young is the lowest in Europe and about a quarter that of the United states’. Here, you can see their specification in the fact that the benefit lies only in the “young” and not for the second half a person’s life. Further, for the United States, it holds true that the economic climate and technology is constantly changing in a way that it is hard for a non-degree worker to adapt to sudden changes. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic completely turned the economy and market upside down and millions of citizens lost their job because of their limited skillset. It is the long-term and highpaying jobs that require constant adaptation to the changing environment, from in-person to remote, and a wide range of educational skills that are built in university.