

Q1

Requirements

- **Respond** to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position
- Use at least **3 sources**
- Show proper analysis
- Avoid second person and first singular

Analyzing Sources

- Don't forget **SOAPSTone**
- Read graphics last

Thesis

- **Although X, A and B; therefore, Y.**

Intro

- Keep the intro brief, maybe even just a thesis
- Make sure your purpose is clear and stated
- Do not use sources

Bodies

- Work **sources** into your paragraph (**must have 3 total** in the essay)
- **Avoid fallacies**
- Connect your bodies to the larger goal of your whole essay (synthesis)
- Make sure it **flows** properly, with proper transitions as well

- Include **a lot of analysis**, don't just summarize the quote, show how it helps
 - Analyze implications
 - Draw conclusions
 - Explain relationships
 - Extend discussion
 - Make connections
- Show both sides, don't neglect to object the **counterargument**, but don't force one if it doesn't fit the circumstance

Conclusion

- Rewrite thesis
- Explain importance, or call to action, or give an unbiased view on the topic and why its necessary

Scoring Rubric for Question 1: Synthesis Essay

Reporting Category

Scoring Criteria

Row A

Thesis 1pt	<p>0 points</p> <p>For any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no defensible thesis. • The intended thesis only restates the prompt. • The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim. • There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt. 	<p>1 point</p> <p>Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.</p>
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Row B

Evidence and
Commentary
4pts

0 points

Simply restates
thesis (if present),
repeats provided
information, or
references fewer
than two of the
provided sources.

1 point

Evidence:
Provides evidence
from or references
at least two of the
provided sources.

2 points

Evidence:
Provides evidence
from or references
at least three of
the provided
sources.

3 points

Evidence:
Provides specific
evidence from at
least three of the
provided sources
to support all
claims in a line of
reasoning.

4 points

Evidence:
Provides specific
evidence from at
least three of the
provided sources
to support all
claims in a line of
reasoning

Commentary:
Summarizes the
evidence but does
not explain how
the evidence
supports the
student's
argument.

Commentary:
Explains how
some of the
evidence relates
to the student's
argument, but no
line of reasoning is
established, or the
line of reasoning is
faulty

Commentary:
Explains how
some of the
evidence supports
a line of reasoning.

Commentary:
Consistently
explains how the
evidence supports
a line of reasoning.

Row C

Sophistication
1pt

0 points

Does not meet the criteria for one point.

1 point

Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a
complex understanding of the rhetorical situation.