

# Preparing the Synthesis Essay

Oh you you this instructional video is to prepare for the synthesis question of the free response section of the AP Language and Composition exam students will read several texts about a topic and create an argument that synthesizes at least three of the sources to support their thesis you you the synthesis question presents a situation with two sides this question poses the argument where the college is worth the cost or not you'll be asked to read five to six sources and select at least three sources to support your argument you must synthesize your own idea not just summarize the sources you've read be sure to cite your sources either by the author's last name or by using source A source B or source C now you have to make a preliminary decision about which side you are on as you read each document label which side of the argument it supports and highlight important statements that support or refute your preliminary decision remember you can change your mind as you read the documents and adjust accordingly and now on to the documents once you've decided which side you're on read through the documents and mark which side each supports create a t-chart for pros and cons and then start reading you you I've placed three of these sources on this slide so that we can look at them carefully take your time and read each source as I bring it up pause this video as you have a chance to read and highlight using the packet that I've provided at the top of each of these sources you can see source A source C and source D you can cite using those words or by using the author's last name source A being Crawford source C being Shearholes source D being Leonard next we have the T chart for pros and cons as we read we source A you can see that I pulled a clip that I want to use and cite in my essay (ask [write paper for me cheap](#) from professionals ) I did the same for source C and I clipped something that I'd like to use to support my argument I also clipped something from source D to put on the other side of mighty chart to support the opposing view so I know that that's what I want to refute what I'd like you to notice about my different sources is how I've tried to look at ethos pathos and logos to support my argument source A has ethos because it talks about teachers and professionals and how they see College we see pathos about how students feel also in source A and then we see logos in source C where I give you facts and statistics in my clip you next you have to create a thesis or synthesize a position so how do we synthesize you look at key common points ideas or claims across the sources you've been given you have to establish a new argument based on the claims presented in the sources it should be a central idea it should take a position and it should be clear make sure the common ideas support your new claim organized specific material from those sources according to the big ideas that support your new claim look at your preliminary thesis and see how it has to be changed or tweaked to suit your essay based on what you've read you you you cannot simply say that college is or isn't worth it you must develop an interesting perspective try answering the question so what a little hint you a good thesis statement will make a claim developing an interesting perspective that you can support and defend this perspective must be more than an observation America is violent as an observation but Americans are violent because they are fearful is an argument when you take aside and you consider the facts that you've been given and you come to some sort of conclusion that's when

you have a claim you now for your tea chart you can determine how each of your examples supports the claim that you have now made you want to decide what you want to use from each side of that tea chart be sure to include that counterclaim as your reader will be looking for it and make sure that when you include that counterclaim that you refute it in your paragraphs you the next video in this series will be writing the synthesis essay you