AP Language Essay Writing

Synthesis, Rhetorical Analysis, & Argumentation

The Breakdown: Synthesis writing is basically an argumentative research-based essay. Instead of doing the research and collecting the sources, it is all right in front of you. It is very similar to the DBQ in APUSH. However, you have to take a critical/argumentative stance regarding the provided documents. Rhetorical analysis is literary analysis on steroids. You will need to analyze the passage. Then, you will need to identify the significance of the rhetorical devices utilized in the passage to persuade a given audience for a given purpose (rhetoric). Argumentative writing includes a position and also addresses the counterargument. It is similar to the synthesis essay because you have to take a position and defend that position. However, for the argumentative essay, you do not receive any direct evidence. So, the examples you include in your writing must be from your repertoire of knowledge.

Essay 1: Synthesis
Essay 2: Rhetorical Analysis
Essay 3: Argumentative Writing

Regardless of which essay you find yourself writing, some things remain the same. (1) Always start with the thesis statement. It will establish the foundation for the rest of the essay. (2) Use the advanced expository model for each of the body paragraphs in the essay. You must use the provided text to make an argument for essays one and two. (3) Keep your writing formal. Avoid first and second person in your essays. (4) Always include a conclusion.

Important Documents
Checklist for Synthesis Essay

_____ Irish thesis statement - which includes an address to a potential counterclaim, outlines at least three reasons why your perspective is validated, and critically introduces your argumentative stance

_____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
_____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 1 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 1 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 2 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 2 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

_____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
_____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 3 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 3 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 4 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 4 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

_____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
_____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 5 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 5 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Quotation 6 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
_____ Explanation 6 that explains the quotation and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
_____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

_____ Conclusion that ties together the three supporting pieces of your argument and reiterates the argumentative stance exhibited in the Irish thesis statement

_____ Maintains formal tone (no contractions, no slang, no figurative language, no first or second person)
_____ Uses correct grammar, mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and syntax
_____ Properly cites quotations (uses at least five sources)
_____ Not only addresses the counterclaim in the thesis, but revisits its lack of competency in the body paragraphs - engages with the opposing view to strengthen one’s own argument
Checklist for Rhetorical Analysis

____ Irish thesis statement- which outlines at least three devices, techniques, or strategies used by the writer or speaker to persuade a given audience for a given purpose.

____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the passage
____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
____ Quotation 1 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 1 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Quotation 2 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 2 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the passage
____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
____ Quotation 3 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 3 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Quotation 4 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 4 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

____ Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the passage
____ Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
____ Quotation 5 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 5 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Quotation 6 that directly quotes evidence in one of the documents
____ Explanation 6 that explains the quotation and rhetorically analyzes the presentation of the idea
____ Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

____ Conclusion that ties together the three or more rhetorical devices utilized within the passage

____ Maintains formal tone (no contractions, no slang, no figurative language, no first or second person)
____ Uses correct grammar, mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and syntax
____ Goes beyond the basic ethos, pathos, logos
Checklist for Argumentative Essay

- Irish thesis statement - which includes an address to a potential counterclaim, outlines at least three reasons why your perspective is validated, and critically introduces your argumentative stance

- Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
- Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
- Example 1 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 1 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
  (advice for distinction point - address the counterclaim throughout in new and innovative ways without running the risk of redundancy)
- Example 2 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 2 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
- Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

- Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
- Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
- Example 1 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 1 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
  (advice for distinction point - address the counterclaim throughout in new and innovative ways without running the risk of redundancy)
- Example 2 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 2 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
- Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

- Topic sentence that supports the thesis statement and ties directly to ideas presented in the documents
- Elaboration that expands on the idea presented in the topic sentence
- Example 1 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 1 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
  (advice for distinction point - address the counterclaim throughout in new and innovative ways without running the risk of redundancy)
- Example 2 that directly supports one of your three reasons presented in the thesis statement
- Explanation 2 that explains the example and further expands on the idea in the topic sentence
- Tie back to the Irish thesis statement

- Conclusion that ties together the three supporting pieces of your argument and reiterates the argumentative stance exhibited in the Irish thesis statement

- Maintains formal tone (no contractions, no slang, no figurative language, no first or second person)
- Uses correct grammar, mechanics, spelling, punctuation, and syntax
- Not only addresses the counterclaim in the thesis, but revisits its lack of competency in the body paragraphs - engages with the opposing view to strengthen one’s own argument