

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

EXPOSITORY WRITING		WRITING TIPS AP LEVEL WRITING	
0	THESES STATEMENT <small>[X= Counterclaim], However, [A], [B], [C], Therefore, [Y= Main Claim].</small>	01	STRONG THESIS STATEMENT. Always include the writer/speaker's name and the title of the piece as well as a clear, confident, and concise overview.
1	TOPIC SENTENCE <small>Introduce Supporting Claim No. 1 (The [A])</small>	02	STRONG TOPIC SENTENCES. Each of the topic sentences should build from the thesis. They should also be clear, confident, and concise indicators.
2	ELABORATION <small>Elaborate on Supporting Claim</small>	03	WELL-SELECTED QUOTATIONS. This can make or break the essay. Choose wisely. ALWAYS INTRODUCE a quotation. Always. Use in-text citations.
3	TEXTUAL SUPPORT <small>Introduce, integrate, and properly cite direct quotation/evidence.</small>	04	DEEP EXPLANATIONS. This should bridge together the topic sentence and the quotation. Spend TIME here. Dig DEEP. Analyze profusely.
4	EXPLANATION <small>Explain why the textual support truly supports your supporting claim.</small>	05	STRONG CONCLUSION. Always include a strong conclusion that is insightful without being overly redundant. Practice that balance.
5	TIE BACK <small>Tie Back to the thesis statement to amplify the cohesive sides of the essay.</small>		



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