

## Synthesis Activity

Let's get started building our understanding of the synthesis essay by doing what we already know how to do.

1. Open your notebook to your yellow sheet and other notes on argumentation.
2. Using any of your handouts or notes, write an introduction and 1 short body paragraph for the following argumentative prompt:

State and local school systems across the country now use standardized tests (end of course tests, state "final exams," end of grade tests, etc.) to measure student, teacher, and school performance. Between preparing for these tests, using practice versions of them, and actually administering them, students and teachers now spend a good portion of their time on these tests. But is the time spent worth the result? **In a well-written, thorough essay, take a position on the validity or usefulness of standardized tests.**

3. Sources:

- [Source A](#)
- [Source B](#)
- [Source C](#)

4. (Take notes on them.) Find at least one piece of information in the article that you can now "synthesize into" your argument.
5. Now, write a body paragraph supporting the claim you made in your introduction. Use at least 1 source in this body paragraph.

You can—

- o Use the piece of information to support your own argument
- o Use the piece of information as something you will concede or refute

If you use the exact words from the article, be sure to use quotation marks.

Whether you paraphrase or quote, put parentheses at the end of the information from the article with the source in it. This way, you are marking the information and giving credit to the author. It will look like this:

This is a fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph. I am using this to show you how to create an "internal citation" for the information you took from the article. This is a fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph fake paragraph. I am using this to show you how to create an "internal citation for the information you took from the article" **(Source D)**.

Notes:

- The "synthesis" essay will be argumentative.
- For the "synthesis" essay, you will be required to "synthesize" sources into your own essay.
- So, basically, the "synthesis" essay on the AP Language test is a mini research paper.