

Synthesis Research Project

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Organize in Google Drive

- ❏ In Google Drive, create an AP Lang folder.
- ❏ Once the folder is created, open the folder.
- ❏ In the folder, we will create several other folders:
 - Synthesis Question Prompt Page
 - Sources
 - Annotated Bibliography
 - Source Excerpts

Difference between Arguable and Debatable

- Debatable is controversial not fully proved, open to debate, sometimes used humorously while arguable is that which can be argued; ie, that which can be proven or strongly supported with sound logical deduction, precedent, and evidence.
- Debatable means it could go either way. Arguable means that one can make a good case to support the issue/opinion.

Sample Arguable or Debatable Prompt

Television has been influential in United States presidential elections since the 1960's. But just what is this influence, and how has it affected who is elected? Has it made elections fairer and more accessible, or has it moved candidates from pursuing issues to pursuing image?

Read the following sources (including the introductory information) carefully. Then, write an essay in which you develop a position on whether it is more advantageous (for the individual and/or the community) to physically relocate frequently or to remain for long periods in one place.

Vary your SOURCES

Choose sources from a wide variety of locations and formats. Use the list below as guidance; it is certainly not all-inclusive. Requirements are in CAPITAL letters. Beyond those required types, you may choose the rest of your sources at your discretion. **

** ACADEMIC JOURNAL

** DATA

Essay by an expert

Field-Specific Magazine

Government Publication

Government Website

Graph

** IMAGE

Letter to editor

Local Newspaper

National Newspaper (online or print editions)

** NEWS WEBSITE

Online Article (about.com, Wikipedia, etc.)

** EDITORIAL (from newspaper/magazine)

Poll Results

Popular Magazine (People, Time, Newsweek)

Primary Book Source

Private Web Page or Blog

Published letter from an individual

Transcript of Oral Commentary or Interview

Consider the validity of your sources. It is okay to have an opinion piece which could obviously be biased, but make sure that the source is still reliable.

Your sources should be a combination of opinion and factual writing. It's hard to "have a conversation" with facts so make sure that you're getting sources that talk about the issue, rather than just defining it or giving background information.

Remember that ultimately you are going to be taking EXCERPTS (see examples), not an entire source. That means that you should choose your sources even more carefully, considering which PARTS of a source you may want to use.

Think “outside the box” when looking for sources. The most obvious choices are not always the best. Consider the example given of using a school’s daily bell schedule. Not an obvious source about individuality vs. conformity, but was still capable of being effectively synthesized into an essay