



Writing the Synthesis Essay



Approaching the Prompt

- ❑ Read the context paragraph
 - Why are people talking about this issue? What are the different sides of this issue?
- ❑ Identify the prompt
- ❑ Turn it into a question
- ❑ Take a **TENTATIVE STAND**



Approaching the Sources

- ❑ Use 10-15 minutes to read sources.
- ❑ Annotate each source
 - Identify the stance of the source (+, -, I)
 - Identify if you can use the source, and if you can
 - Identify short quotes (underline, box, circle)
 - Main Idea + Strong Verb (conveys, highlights, implies, demonstrates, illustrates, etc.)
- ❑ If you do not understand a source or are not comfortable with a particular source, SKIP IT!



Quick Outline

- ❑ Determine **YOUR** argument
- ❑ Determine your **LINE OF REASONING** for each body paragraph
- ❑ Determine whether you will use a counter & rebuttal, concession & refutation and where
- ❑ Decide which sources you will use and in which paragraphs



Sources

- ❑ Sources need to have a “conversation”
- ❑ Look for sources that have similar claims that further your argument
- ❑ Look for sources that are in opposition to your argument
- ❑ You **MUST CITE THREE** sources but **BEST** to CITE FOUR



How to Embed Quotes

- ❑ Embed quote into a sentence or into your own words with citation at the end.
- ❑ Paraphrase quote with citation at the end
- ❑ AVOID: In source B, the author says, “...” AND According to....
- ❑ Pull shorter quotes that you can embed into your writing
- ❑ AVOID whole sentences
- ❑ Spend more time on COMMENTARY



Commentary

- ❑ Who benefits and who does not? Why?
- ❑ What will happen if this issue continues? What will happen if it ends?
- ❑ How will this benefit or hurt society?
- ❑ What are some real-world applications?

