Guided Lecture on Synthesis

Sample Prompt

The wealth gap (the relative difference between the richest and poorest citizens) has become a source of dismay and controversy in the United States. Perhaps nowhere is this divide between rich and poor greater than on the island of American Somoa.

Read the following sources (including the introductory information) carefully. Then, in an essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources, develop a position about what creates the wealth gap in American Samoa and propose a solution to alleviate issues arising from that gap.

Analyze: Mock Synthesis Subject

* ­­­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Poor – Rich (Divide)
* Source \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Wealth Gap in America, Obesity/Nutrition, Wage Stagnation, Education, Welfare, Job Scarcity, American Dream
* Take a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* Propose a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

#1 Thing that hurts your score:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what sources say. Use them to create argument and conversation instead.

Prompt & Thesis: THREE PROMPT KEYS:

1. ­­­­­ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Who? (Narrow Group - Samoans).

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on Factors. *ASK: What are the Problems or Issues?*

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ASK: *What are the solutions or criteria?*

Write out your THESIS (take a position) even before you have read your sources, so that the thesis \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Change later if your end up writing it differently).

Sample: *Despite recent attempts to bridge the wealth gap among Samoan teenagers, high tuition and obesity plague any real progress, and only free college and organic lollipops will restore faith in the American Dream.*

Introduction:

Start with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

* Quote: Literary Reference!
* Vivid Description

Metaphor:

• Anecdote

* Rhetorical Questions or two.
* \*TIP: Good place to use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Body Paragraphs: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_SOURCES!

* TOPIC sentence THAT IS NOT A SOURCE QUOTE but a sentence that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Example: American Somoans need access to a better education.*

* Conversation Between Sources: At least THREE sources integrated with your Commentary. Quotes should be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Avoid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Include a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_of the source, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, then give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

*Example: American Somoans need access to a better education. Ken Bigshot, a CNN commentator reports that “three hundred thousand” Samoan Americans are Walmart employees without college educations (Source A). Meanwhile Lupita Lovestotalk, a talk-show host, declares that working at Walmart is “just as good as a college degree.” (Source C). Bigshot is clearly right. Lovestotalk marginalizes Samoans to the retail life while Bigshot sees the lack of education as a detriment, not something he is okay with. Clearly, Samoans are underrepresented among Americans with higher degrees and this represents a huge problem. The key to achieving the American Dream and upward mobility is a college degree. This is an enormous problem needing a solution.*

Conclusion:

• First sentence: Start with a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Somoans are bagels – they just need a little cream cheese.)

* Re-state, and re-answer the prompt with a rewording of your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (Include subject, position, solution/criteria).
* THEN, make a holy-cow-is-this-so-profound-so-what?-let-me-tell-you-what-is-so-profoundly-what Statement. We call this the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Statement? (So Fricking What)
* Tip: Good place to use poetic devices!

HW: This will be your Summative.

* Start your own Synthesis Prompt today!
* Find a narrow subject / issue - Like the problem of indigent Somoans (pennies, monuments)
* Find a narrow subject yet one that has a lot of arguable factors. Can we all just disagree?
* 8 Sources: One of which is a cartoon.
* Articles that have various explanations or analysis about the subject.
* Articles that offer solutions and/or criteria to approach the topic

Ideas/ Notes:

Guided Lecture on Argumentative:

General Tips:

* The argumentative essay asks the student to take a stance and argue a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In essence, the student is asked to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(or a combination of these) an argument .
* Typically the student is given a subject area and enough information within the prompt to fashion a reasonable response. Students are expected to have some \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the subject.
* The key to success: Create a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_– a “condition of rebuttal” – that you control. This will take the form of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Either way you turn the argument back into your favor, thereby, increasing the strength of your position.

Evidence:

* It’s not the evidence you use; it’s how you use the evidence. Don’t feel boxed in by your evidence. Use your imagination and find a way to argue (reasonably and convincingly, of course) your position.
* **G**overnment and current events
* **O**bservations and personal experience
* **P**hilosophy and psychology
* **H**istory
* **E**ntertainment and pop culture
* **R**eadings
* **S**cience and technology

Sample Prompt:

An anthropologist studying first-year students at a university in the United States writes that friendly phrases like, “How are you?,” “Nice to meet you,” and “Let’s get in touch” communicate politeness rather than literal intent. What, if anything, is the value or function of such polite speech?

In a well-written essay, develop your position on the value or function of polite speech in a culture or community with which you are familiar. Use appropriate evidence from your reading, experience, or observations to support your argument.

Pre-Writing (Three Tasks):

1. What is the prompt asking? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(polite speech in a community or culture I know about)

2. Create a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: The value of polite speech is … *to signal mutual respect as well as acknowledging commonality among cultures and communities*.

3. Create a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Concession: I concede “nice to meet you” means little, however …

Refutation: While some will argue “how are you?” conveys nothing, they fail to consider …

4*.* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*+* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_it up!

Examples: *“How are you?” = Science & Technology (Istagram)*

*“Let’s keep in touch” = Observations & Personal Experience*

*“Nice to meet you” = Readings (Gatsby)*

Introduction:

• Use a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - Quote, Vivid Description, Anecdote, Question

• Concoct a **Thesis** that ­­­­­­­­­­­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_and takes a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If you are able, build in your thesis the counter-argument with either the refutation or concession:

Example: *Most forms of polite speech signal mutual respect as well as acknowledging commonality among cultures and communities; although admittedly, some polite speech demonstrates little functionality.* (Outline: Intro, Defend, Counter, Conclusion.)

Body Paragraph #1: Defend Your Positions

• Topic sentence is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

Example: *Polite speech is valuable because it signals mutual respect and provides acknowledgement of common interests among friends and acquaintances.*

*•* The next sentence is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(GOPHER) followed by lengthy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

• In a traditional argumentative essay, you can defend your position through 1) establishing credibility, 2) defining the importance of the topic, and 3) making an argumentative appeal.

*Example:*

*Polite speech is valuable because it signals mutual respect and provides acknowledgement of common interests among friends and acquaintances. High School provides a fascinating window into polite speech within the context of a distinct community. When we see our friends in the hallways, we say, “How are you?”. For example, I recently saw Samuel, and said, “What up, dawg?”. The colloquial language enhances the common expression. It signals a language that is defined by the walls of our high school. The salutation implies respect…I like Samuel. This polite speech furthers common interests when combined with social media. Social media can alienate, insult, OR, be a force for real connection. Polite online speech brings people together. For example, when I check Samuel’s Instagram page, I often find polite speech in every picture or caption. Samuel’s Instagram page might reveal a picture of Samuel with other friends we both know, and a caption that reads, “Good times at the game.” It’s as if Samuel has answered my “How are you question?”. In my view, these are examples of polite speech and they have value. Both are signs of mutual respect that we care about each other to check in and demonstrate we have common interests. Without polite speech, people can be insecure. “Let’s keep in touch” is a good example. My friend Marc always ends conversations with, “Talk to you later.” I have heard that enough times to know he means it, and it is a way of acknowledging that we will, in fact, talk later. Without that salutation, I would probably worry about the direction of our friendship. Polite speech keeps everything flowing nicely among friends.*

Body Paragraph #2: Counter Argument

• Start with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

• Provide an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (that works against your argument)

• Make an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

• Provide a final \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(GOPHER)

*Example:*

*A few examples of polite speech are probably perfunctory. For example, “nice to meet you” appears to have no purpose other than as a bland expression we have come to expect to hear. Most will concede the point that this phrase has lost any original significance. However, even “nice to meet you” has a ring of mutual respect. Other first-time greetings of polite speech can even have the effect of introducing the personality of the speaker. Next time you are expected to say “nice to meet you,” think of a way to introduce yourself in a fun way. For example, whenever I think of Jay Gatsby meeting people and saying, “Old Sport,” I think of F. Scott Fitzgerald telling his audience how Gatsby had appropriated a greeting that seemed to have a disarming effect. To some, it was charming, to other’s oft-putting. Yet just adding it, “Nice to meet you, Old Sport,” has the value of channeling something interesting about yourself (in this case, mystery). So even a bland expression like “nice to meet you” could conceivably hold hidden charms.*

Conclusion:

• \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

- Reexamine the prompt and make sure you are taking a position and clarifying.

- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ restate the counter argument.

• Make a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: Why is this a big deal?

* Talk your way (in your conclusion) into a higher score.

Notes:

Rhetorical Analysis Guided Lecture

Triangle: PIGSAC:

Introduction:

1. Rhetorical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\*
2. Optional examples / add your own voice in writing
3. Identify Rhetorical \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\*

* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

*Example:*

*It’s dog-gone good time to be a Subaru owner. In their latest “love themed” commercial, the ad-makers for Subaru target their audience of Patagonia-wearing, Whole Food’s-shopping, granola-eating, kids-soccer-game-attending, car buyers. This time they enlist the help of a family of dogs on a road trip together. The family of dogs bark at the post man. The dog dad leers at a French poodle while mommy dog growls her disapproval. Finally, they stop at the gas station to hydrate with an assist from the toilet bowl. Why did this day go to the dogs? Because the typical Subaru owner also packs the family canine in the family car. Using subtle humor, and plenty of personification, Subaru creates an emotional appeal, and once again makes an effective argument to buy their cars.*

Body Paragraphs

* Claim: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ start with a quote from the speaker.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: “Three to five word quotes” are ideal with minimal paraphrasing.
* Commentary: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Example:*

*Ad-makers at Subaru enlist imagery and personification to woo car-buyers. Viewers begin with the juxtaposition of a dog “family” driving a Subaru . After a few seconds to let the viewer’s brain catch up with the abnormality of a dog driving, the dogs begin barking. The personification works because the common elements of a family road trip (parent dogs up front, kid dogs in back – one even strapped into a car seat) create instant recognition and amusement. Just like humans trapped in a car, any outside stimuli is bound to get the whole family involved if it is interesting enough. The effect is highlighted with the unified barking. What are they barking at? A mail truck, of course. The revealing image of the mail truck creates a strong association with dogs and uncontrollable behaviors around mail carriers. Subaru hopes that watching this cute commercial will subconsciously result in the effect of human beings uncontrollably buying Subaru cars. The message is clear: impulses rule! Subaru effectively creates a car buying desire through imagery and personification.*

Conclusion:

* Re-introduce\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ elements
* Re-State \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Add in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ statement – So What?