

Synthesis Essay



What are we doing?

What does *synthesis* mean?

- All to synthesize means is to take disparate elements and combine them into one whole.

For our purposes, you will synthesize an argument from a variety of sources.

You take the sources you are given in the synthesis prompt, and *synthesize* them into a cogent argument of your own design.

Today you will...

1. Be given a brief description of the issue.
 2. Be presented with four sources at least one of which is visual.
 3. Tomorrow you will write an argumentative essay that incorporates and synthesizes at least two of the sources in support of your position on the topic.
- Let's look at this in context.
 - I'd like you to consider . . .

Context of your Essay

- What is your position on Pokemon Go? Do other people feel differently than you?
- Do you think the game is good for children? Adults? In what ways?
- Should students be encouraged to go outside without the use of technology?
- Are there other games out like Pokemon Go that you use?

Visual Source



How it Starts

- PROMPT: Develop a position on whether or not the release of Pokemon Go has had a positive or negative impact on society.

- DIRECTIONS: Write an introduction that provides context for the prompt. Craft a thesis that directly address the prompt.

Write a body paragraph that supports the claim you have established. Include the opposing side (counterargument) and refutation in the paragraph.

Make sure to do it this way:

1. Take a clear stance.

- Make sure, in other words, you decidedly express your claim on whether Pokemon Go has had a positive or negative impact on society.

You are not arguing for or against video games in general. Rather you are taking a stance on Pokemon Go based on the information that you find in the articles provided.

Make sure you do it this way:

2. Your argument is based on the sources.

- You are required to *synthesize* the sources.
- You're not merely paraphrasing or quoting. Just quoting using a source is not really synthesizing.
- The only grounds you are using is what you find in the sources.
- Be sure to cite the sources. The citations are provided!
- If you are going to discuss your experiences with Pokemon Go, make sure you do so to support the grounds you've identified in the sources **not** as substitution for the sources.

Make sure you do it this way:

3. This is an argument, not an opinion.

- Now you might have an opinion on this; you might not.
- It doesn't really matter.
- The task isn't to advance your opinion, but to advance your biased claim (that Pokemon Go is or is not a positive thing in society).
- There's nothing wrong with bias.

The Writing...

The Set Up

The prompt is given, you have 50 minutes to write the introduction and two body paragraphs.