

## Outline for the Synthesis Essay

### I Introduction

- A. Capture the reader's attention. Use a quote, or a description, or anything interesting to hook the reader in.
- B. Give a little background information about the problem you are researching.
- C. Explain why this is a relevant problem/issue in today's society.
- D. Write your thesis. Your thesis should include AT LEAST three major points that you are going to cover in your body paragraphs.

### II. Concessions and Refutation

*Look at the arguments made by those who do not agree with you.*

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce one of the reasons that **does NOT** support your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that takes the point of view OPPOSITE to yours. Make the quote part of your own words. DO NOT JUST USE A QUOTE, and none of your own words!!!!
- C. In your sentence of commentary, explain why this reason or idea may be good but is not as valid or as good as yours.
- D. Write another sentence of commentary explaining why this reason is not valid.
5. Write another sentence using a quote from different one of your sources that is OPPOSITE to your thinking.
- E. In your sentence of commentary, explain why this idea may be good, but it is not as valid as yours.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary explaining why this point of view is not valid. 8. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

### III. Support

*Least important reason supporting your thesis on the issue/problem that you have selected.*

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce the least importance reason that supports your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your idea. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- C. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- D. Write a sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
5. Write another sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your thinking. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- E. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
- G. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

#### IV. Support

*Second most important reason supporting your thesis on the issue/problem that you have selected.*

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce the least importance reason that supports your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your idea.. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- C. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- D. Write a sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence. 5. Write another sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your thinking. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- E. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
- G. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

#### V. Support

*Most important reason supporting your thesis on the issue/problem that you have selected.*

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce the least importance reason that supports your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your idea. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- C. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- D. Write a sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence. 5. Write another sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your thinking. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- E. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
- G. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

#### VI. 1<sup>st</sup> Possible Solution to solving the issue/problem that you have chosen

*Most important reason supporting your thesis on the issue/problem that you have selected.*

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce the least importance reason that supports your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your idea. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- C. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- D. Write a sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence. 5. Write another sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your thinking. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- E. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
- G. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

#### VII. 2<sup>nd</sup> Possible Solution to solving the issue/problem that you have chosen

***Most important reason supporting your thesis on the issue/problem that you have selected.***

- A. **Topic sentence:** Choose one concept word from the last sentence of your previous paragraph and use it again in a different way in this sentence. This sentence should introduce the least important reason that supports your thesis.
- B. Write a sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your idea. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- C. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- D. Write a sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence. 5. Write another sentence using a quote from one of your sources that supports your thinking. Embed the quote or introduce it. Do not dump it into your paragraph.
- E. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
- F. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
- G. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

**VIII. Call to Action(What are you asking people to do to try and solve/end this issue?)**

- A. Summarize the argument you are trying to make, by reusing two or three key concept words from your thesis in a different way. Use the thesaurus function on the computer, if necessary.
- B. Sum up your argument with a few final facts, or tie in some pathos or ethos (e.g. for pathos, discuss a relevant personal example or that of a famous person or use a well-chosen quote from a famous person; for ethos, make a passionate appeal about America).

**IV. Conclusion**

- A. Sum up problem in a sentences or two.
- B. Restate main points and answer unanswered questions
- C. End with a story, question, or some new insight.
- D. Final few sentences should be the HHMMMMM moment. Leave your reader with something to think about.