

Synthesis Essay Format

I Introduction

1. Capture the reader's attention. Use a quote, or a description, or anything interesting to hook the reader in.
2. Give a little background information about the American Dream.
3. Explain why the American Dream is controversial right now.
4. Write your thesis. Your thesis should include the three major points 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.

1. **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.
2. 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!!!!
3. In your sentence of commentary, explain why this reason or idea may be good but is not as valid or as good as yours.
4. 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.
6. In your sentence of commentary, explain why this idea may be good, but it is not as valid as yours.
7. 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 American Dream.

1. **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.
2. 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.
3. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
4. 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.
6. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
7. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
8. 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 American Dream.

1. **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.
2. 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.
3. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
4. 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.
6. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
7. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
8. 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 American Dream.

1. **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.
2. 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.
3. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
4. 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.
6. Write a sentence of commentary, explaining how this supports your thinking.
7. Write another sentence of commentary, expanding your thinking of the previous sentence.
8. Write a concluding sentence, using one of the concept words from the topic sentence in this sentence.

VI. Call to Action

1. 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.
2. 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 patriotic appeal about America).