

Part 1:

Analyze your own previously written synthesis essay by reviewing the prompt and completing the chart below. Respond to each question in complete sentences.

1. Read the question prompt**a. What is the prompt asking you to do?**

The prompt is asking me to first read the seven provided sources, and then synthesize information from at least three of them. From there, I am instructed to take that information and put it into a well-written essay that identifies the key issue associated with the locavore movement and examines implications from it for the community.

b. Did you address all parts of the prompt?

I feel that I did hit all parts of the prompt, and made sure to make mention not only what it is, but the effects it has on not just the community, but the entire world as a whole.

c. Did you stray from the topic?

I don't feel that I per se strayed from the topic, but there may have been some points in which I did not address them as strongly when compared to others.

d. Is prompt dissection a strength or weakness for you?

Prompt dissection is more a strength to me than a weakness, but I do have a good amount of room for improvement. I am good at breaking the prompt down into different parts and making sure that I address all of them in an essay.

e. How could you improve this skill?

To improve this skill, one thing I can do is to annotate not just more, but better and more effectively. When it comes to writing a synthesis essay, I want to make sure that I am addressing how the sources communicate with each other, not just what they are saying and explaining. By annotating more elements that show this, I can be sure to include them in my essay and explain the communication between the sources and what they are all trying to communicate.

2. Read and evaluate your previously written essay response

<< table is below >>

Criteria	Your Evaluation	Evidence from Your Essay	Use What You Have Learned In Order to Grow
Thesis	<p>Is the thesis clear? Does your thesis take a position that shows evidence of simple or complex thinking?</p> <p>The thesis I included in my previous essay is clear on what subject matter the essay is going to be a part and some of the elements that will be hit, and as well does provide a clear position.</p>	<p>Copy your thesis here:</p> <p><i>“While it can be acknowledged that eating strictly local can affect the global economy as a whole, since it takes money away from other places and economic sectors, there are great benefits that come along with being locavore, such as food being grown much fresher, more money being generated for the local economy which may need it, and much more available variety.”</i></p>	<p>Write an updated, improved thesis here:</p> <p><i>“The locavore movement has a prominent impact on not just the community, but the whole world, and while it can be acknowledged that eating strictly local can affect the global economy as a whole, since it takes money away from other places and economic sectors, there are great benefits that come along with being locavore, such as food being grown much fresher, more money being generated for the local economy which may need it, and much more available variety.”</i></p>
Organization	<p>Is your essay organized around key points, sources, or some other method?</p> <p>My essay is primarily organized around a bit of both key points and sources. It is divided into three sub-parts (the body paragraphs) which include food being fresher, the value towards the local economy, and the variety of available food. From there then, they are a bit based off the available sources provided to me.</p>	<p>Copy one or two examples showing your organization, or map out the organization of your essay here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro/Thesis • Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Food is fresher ○ Value towards local economy ○ Variety of available food • Conclusion 	<p>What are the strong points of your organizational methods? How can you improve your organization?</p> <p>Through this organizational method, it allows my essay to establish a flow and effectively communicate my position. Some specific strong points include some of the examples I use and the connection between them and the evidence. However, I would make it a point that I could further improve by extending my commentary and throwing in some better real-life examples to better draw a connection</p>

Criteria	Your Evaluation	Evidence from Your Essay	Use What You Have Learned In Order to Grow
	(continued from above)	(continued from above)	between these things. Also as well make an equal balance of claim, evidence, commentary, and so on.
Evidence	<p>Did you use multiple sources to provide evidence in support of each claim? Did you vary the use of embedded quotes and paraphrased information?</p> <p>When it came to providence evidence in support of each claim, I aimed to use at least 2 sources whenever possible. There was one instance where I only included one, but all else had at least 2. I did though use more embedded quotes than paraphrased information, so maybe I could have made a more equal balance between those things in my essay.</p>	<p>Copy one or two examples showing your use of evidence here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maiser continues to states how that <i>“a dollar spent locally generates twice as much income for the local economy,”</i> (Maiser), showcasing how this money spent goes right back into your pocket. Alisa Smith also explains how <i>“food begins to lose nutrition as soon as it is harvested. Fruit and vegetables that travel shorter distances are therefore likely to be closer to a maximum of nutrition,”</i> (Smith), which exemplifies the fact that distance ultimately affects the overall health and nutritional value of what you eat; something that every 	<p>How can you improve your use of evidence? What should you do more of? What should you do less of?</p> <p>As stated before, I could have included a more equal balance between embedded quotes and paraphrased information. On top of that, I tend to repeat the same words sometimes before the actual direct quote kicks in, such as <i>“states that”</i> or <i>“explains how.”</i> So by finding a way to vary up the word choice there, that would make my essay seem less repetitive and have a much better “flow” to it.</p>

Criteria	Your Evaluation	Evidence from Your Essay	Use What You Have Learned In Order to Grow
	(continued from above)	person should highly value.	(continued from above)
Commentary	<p>Did you explain the significance of evidence and offer personal insight, or did you focus on summarizing?</p> <p>I focused more on offering some insight with some summarizing mixed in between as well. At some points I re-worded/paraphrased what the quote said to further explain its purpose, and also included some other personal insight to help the reader think more deeply into the point I am trying to make.</p>	<p>Copy two examples of your commentary here:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of it this way, would you much rather eat food that is two weeks old or two days old? Most likely your answer would be two days. which exemplifies the fact that distance ultimately affects the overall health and nutritional value of what you eat; something that every person should highly value. 	<p>How can you improve your commentary? What should you do more of? What should you do less of?</p> <p>To improve my commentary, it would be best to throw in some more relatable things/experiences to be able to draw a much better connection between my words, the evidence, and the overall position. One of the biggest things in an argument is relating with the audience to get them to be on your side, so this would definitely help with that purpose.</p>

Part 2:

Use the chart from Part 1, the rubric for synthesis questions, and the questions below to reflect on your response and your evaluation:

- **Write a “Scoring Commentary” paragraph like the ones featured in the lesson. Assign a score to your previously written essay and offer insightful commentary and evidence from the essay and from the rubric to support your score.**

Assigned score: Medium-scoring

This medium-scoring essay offers a well-written perspective on the locavore movement, its effect, and whether or not it truly is beneficial or not. The student organizes their essay by the key issues that come with this movement; such as how the food is fresher, the value to the local economy, and the variety of available food. They incorporate evidence from several sources to support each of these mentioned key issues and offers some personal insight and further explanation to the source evidence and strengthen their argument; however, this could be enhanced further to have a much bigger effect on the reader. With a well-defined argument and well-developed commentary, this essay earns a medium score of 4, lacking the sophistication point and another point for evidence/commentary, which are two realms that if included would make this essay further soar.

- **Reflect on the student samples from the lesson. What struck you as especially effective? What specific elements would you like to emulate from these sample responses?**

The student samples from the lesson were really well put together, and I definitely have noticed some elements that I would mimic in my own writing. Such elements include much well explained personal insight, along with better integration of the sources and the specific quotes to illustrate what evidence is being used. In my own essays I would like to do this similar kind of thing; use stronger personal insight and integrate my evidence much better than I currently do right now.

- **Make a “To Do” list for your next essay. Complete the following sentences with the specific technique or trait you will strive to implement in your next response:**

- **For my thesis, I will**

Make it more fluid and state the broader purpose of the essay, not just simply what is going to be said; so that the reader will want to continue on reading the essay interested in the content ahead of them.

- **To enhance the organization of my response, I will**

Establish a fluid flow between the ideas being presented, with an equal balance of claim, evidence, commentary, and so on. This will make my argument much more effective.

- **To improve the way that I use the sources as evidence, I will**

Establish a better balance between paraphrasing and embedded quotes, and as well use various word choices to create a better flow between my paragraphs and the evidence.

- **To improve my commentary, I will**

Use stronger personal insight with better real-life examples, to form a better connection between the evidence, my position, and what I am explaining.