Synthesis Essay Rubric

[adapted from AP Central CollegeBoard]

_____	**1** Proficient	**0** Does not meet
Thesis (0 - 1 points)	There is no defensible thesis. The intended thesis only restates the prompt. The intended thesis provides a summary of the issue with no apparent or coherent claim. There is a thesis, but it does not respond to the prompt	Responds to the prompt with a thesis that presents a defensible position.

_____	**4** Advanced	**3** Proficient	**2** Approaches	**1** Initiates	**0** Does not meet
Evidence & Commentary (0 - 4 points)	**EVIDENCE**: Clearly synthesizes and provides specific evidence **from at least three** of the provided sources to support all claims in a line of reasoning. **AND COMMENTARY:** Consistently explains how the evidence supports a line of reasoning and connects ideas between sources. Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument. Thoughtfully anticipates and addresses the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations	**EVIDENCE**: Synthesizes and provides specific evidence **from at least three of the provided sources** to support all claims in a line of reasoning. **AND COMMENTARY:** Explains how some of the evidence supports a line of reasoning. Focus on the importance of specific words and details from the sources to build an argument. Anticipates and addresses the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations	**EVIDENCE**: Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources. **AND COMMENTARY:** Explains how some of the evidence relates to the student's argument, but no line of reasoning is established, or the line of reasoning is faulty May contain some simplistic, inaccurate, or repetitive explanations that don't strengthen the argument. May address the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations, but in a limited manner	**EVIDENCE**: Provides **evidence from or references at least two of the provided sources**. **AND COMMENTARY:** Summarizes the evidence but does not explain how the evidence supports the student's argument. Demonstrates minimal grasp of the text. Does not address the reader's potential misunderstandings, biases, and expectations. Tend to focus on summary or description of sources rather than specific details.	Simply restates the thesis (if there is one) **And / Or** Repeats information already provided. **And / Or** References **fewer than two** of the provided sources. Minimal synthesis of information / minimal grasp of the texts

_____	**1** Proficient	**0** Does not meet
Sophistication (0 -1 points)	Does not meet the criteria for one point. **Responses that do not earn this point:** Attempt to contextualize their argument, but such attempts consist predominantly of sweeping generalizations. Only hint at or suggest other arguments.	Demonstrates sophistication of thought and/or a complex understanding of the rhetorical situation. Crafts a nuanced argument by consistently identifying complexities or tensions across the sources