

PART A – ARGUMENT ANALYSIS (13.5% of AP score)

DIRECTIONS

1. Identify the author’s argument, **main idea**, or thesis.
2. Explain the author’s **line of reasoning** by identifying the claims used to build the argument and the connections between them.
3. Evaluate the effectiveness of the **evidence** the author uses to support the claims made in the argument.

PACING & TIMING

- SUGGESTED TIME: 30 minutes (of 120)
- 10 minutes: Read and annotate the passage.
 - 9 minutes: Q2 – Line of Reasoning
 - 8 minutes: Q3 – Evidence
 - 3 minutes: Q1 – Main Idea

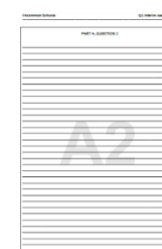
QUESTION #1 – MAIN IDEA (3 points)

- Begin by introducing the author and text: “In Nicholas Kristof’s piece ‘Why I Went to North Korea,’ he argues...”
- Must identify **TWO** key ideas to provide the **complete main idea**
 - Include the *how*, *why*, or *because*
- 3 sentence maximum



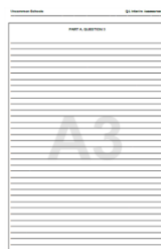
QUESTION #2 – LINE OF REASONING (6 points)

- Must identify at least 5 claims.
- Use a **sequence, summary, LOR connection** format:
 - *First*, the author *presents the problem* that mass shootings *continue to happen on a regular basis in the United States*. *Second*, the author provides *context* and an *international comparison* by showing how rare mass shootings are in other developed countries, such as the U.K. and Switzerland. *Next*, the author *proposes a solution* of pressuring specific members of Congress to support gun control legislation.



QUESTION #3 – EVIDENCE (6 points)


- Must identify at least 5 **specific** pieces of evidence, either quoted or paraphrased.
 - NON-EXEMPLAR: *The author used statistics from the FBI to prove their point.*
 - EXEMPLAR: *The author cited statistics from the FBI to demonstrate the scope of the opioid epidemic, stating that 550 overdose deaths were reported in Maryland in 2016.*
- To evaluate, use **SCAR** and **RAVEN** to analyze how relevant or credible the evidence is to support the author’s claim.
 - NON-EXEMPLAR: *Smith and Noble are professors of history at Yale University, which is a reputable college, so they are experts.*
 - EXEMPLAR: *As professors of history at Yale University, Smith and Noble are credible expert sources affiliated with a reputable research university; thus, their study on political hate speech strongly supports the author’s claim that animosity towards immigrants was even more heated in past decades.*



KEY TERMS

Claim	A reason or assertion that supports/proves the thesis	
Evidence	Information used as proof to support a claim or thesis	
Line of Reasoning	Logical order of claims that build to lead to a conclusion	
Vested interest	Having a personal stake, usually for financial gain <i>Bill Gates has a vested interest in seeing Microsoft succeed.</i>	
SCAR-T evaluates effectiveness of evidence. <i>Sufficiency, Credibility, Accuracy, Relevance, Typicality</i>	Line of Reasoning Connections	
RAVEN evaluates credibility of a source. <i>Reputation, Ability to observe, Vested interest, Expertise, Neutrality</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sequence (first, next, then, finally) 2. State thesis 3. Establish significance or context 4. Define a key term 5. Build & provide another reason 6. Provide an example 7. Give a different perspective 8. Analyze through a different lens 9. Compare/contrast 10. Present a pattern 11. Provide criteria 12. Cause → effect or consequence 13. Problem → solution 14. Counterargument → rebuttal 15. Present an implication or limitation 	
Types of Evidence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Anecdotal</i> – a personal account 2. <i>Statistical</i> – numerical data (#s) 3. <i>Scholarly</i> – peer-reviewed and published by experts, in journals 4. <i>Authorities</i> – experts 	

PART B – SYNTHESIS ESSAY (31.5% of AP score)

DIRECTIONS		PACING & TIMING		
<p>Read the four sources carefully, focusing on a theme or issue that connects them and the different perspective each represents. Then, write a logically organized, well-reasoned, and well-written argument that presents your own perspective on the theme or issue you identified. You must incorporate at least two of the sources provided and link the claims in your argument to support evidence. You may also use the other provided sources or draw upon your own knowledge. In your response, refer to the provided sources as Source A, Source B, Source C, or Source D, or by the author’s name.</p>		<p>SUGGESTED TIME: 90 minutes (of 120)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20 minutes: Read & annotate sources to identify the connecting theme/issue. 15 minutes: Plan & outline <i>5 min for thesis, 10 min for argument</i> 55 minutes: Write 		
BRAINSTORMING A THESIS (5 min)		OUTLINING AN ARGUMENT (10 min)		
<p>The synthesis essay asks for your own perspective. This is your argument! Get creative! <i>What do you want to prove about this topic?</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the connecting theme or issue between the 4 sources. Brainstorm related topics based on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> AP Seminar lenses <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental, Scientific, Economic, Futuristic, Ethical, Political & Historical, Artistic & Philosophical, Cultural & Social Who? What? When? Where? Why? How? Draft a unique thesis. Review the 4 sources— can they support your thesis well? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction: Introduce the theme/topic, provide context, state your thesis. 3+ Body Paragraphs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each body paragraph presents a <u>unique claim</u> that supports your thesis. Each claim and body paragraph must be connected by a <u>LOR connection</u> in order to deepen and develop your argument. Conclusion: Zoom out and analyze the implications, consequences, and/or significance of your argument. 		
		<p><i>EXAMPLE THESIS:</i> Solitude and the act of being alone is a lost art in the 21st century, yet it is needed more than ever to promote introspection.</p>		
RUBRIC ROWS & CRITERIA		Structure	LOR Connection	Example
1. Theme	Identify the <u>theme or issue</u> that connects the 4 sources.	Introduction	Problem & effect	Constant stimulation with TV, apps, etc. → short attention spans, FOMO, social anxiety
2. Perspective	Presents a <u>unique</u> and insightful thesis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cannot already be represented in one of the sources Must be directly related to the theme 	Claim 1 = B¶1	Problem	Being alone is seen as an oddity, as if there is something wrong with that person.
3. Establish Argument	Argument is developed with a clear line of reasoning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each body paragraph represents a unique claim that supports/proves the thesis Claims and body paragraphs are logically organized Claims <i>connect and build</i> upon one another, developing an argument over the course of the essay 	Claim 2 = B¶2	Solution & reason	But being alone is when we do our deepest, most meaningful thinking and reflection.
		Claim 3 = B¶3	Reason	Solitude also allows for more creative thinking, without peer pressure and outside influence.
		Conclusion	Implications	Being alone will become even more important in coming years, as tech becomes an even bigger, more integrated part of our lives.
4. Commentary	Clearly explains HOW the evidence supports the claim and overall thesis, further advancing the argument.	6. Attribution	Each piece of quoted or paraphrased evidence uses parenthetical citations like and is introduced in the sentence. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Steinem argues that the women’s rights movement has accelerated greatly in the past 5 years (Source D).</i> 	
5. Use of Evidence	Uses <u>at least 2 sources</u> & relevant outside knowledge/evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Synthesize evidence to connect sources together Combine at least 2 sources in at least 1 body ¶ 	7. Grammar & Style	Few errors in grammar and formal academic tone <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoids informal or vague pronouns: you, they, we, us, I Avoids slang/colloquial phrases 	