

Mrs. Chapman  
English III AP – \_\_\_\_\_  
30 March 2009

Final Five  
Essay 1A – Synthesis

Complete this assignment before coming to class tomorrow. IT MUST BE HANDWRITTEN; however, you may print out the document and write in your answers if you would like.

1. Read the *entire* question – directions, introduction, & assignment. What valuable information does each part provide?
  - a. Directions: \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Assignment: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Before reading the sources, jot down your first reaction to the prompt. Should the penny be eliminated? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the sources. For each, do the following:
  - a. **Read to understand what the source has to say.**
    - i. Underline or circle striking ideas, topic sentences, and other key words and phrases.
    - ii. Write a short summary of the source.
  - b. **Read to analyze the author’s position on the issue.** In the top, right-hand corner, put a plus sign (+) if the source is for keeping the penny, a minus sign (-) if the source is against keeping the penny, or a plus/minus (+/-) if the source is neither for nor against keeping the penny.
  - c. **Read for evidence and data that help define your position on the issue.** Make two lists, one for arguments to keep the penny and one for arguments to eliminate it.

Keep the Penny	Eliminate the Penny

- d. **Interpret the visual sources.** What relevant information does Source E contribute to the discussion? \_\_\_\_\_

What relevant information does Source G contribute to the discussion? \_\_\_\_\_

- e. **Assess the validity of the source.**
  - i. Next to the year of each source, write in how old it is. *(If it’s more than 10 or 15 years old and written about a scientific topic, it may not be valid with the constantly-changing nature of science. However, if it’s a 100-year-old observation about the American system of government, it may be as valid today as the day it was written.)*

ii. Put a box around the place the source was published. (*If it's a blogger's website, a tabloid, or someone with an axe to grind, it probably isn't as valid as a source from a scholarly journal, a government document, or a book written by a popular author.*)

4. What is your position? Write a concise, declarative sentence that focuses the reader on whether or not the penny should be eliminated. It must be **specific** enough to be the topic of a short paper. It must express your **opinion**. It should be **controversial** – worthy of an argument. It must address the **issue** raised by the question (prompt). \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. You should have at least three distinct and relevant reasons that *support your position*. List your reasons:  
Reason 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Put a **star** by your best reason – save that one for last when you write.

6. **Acknowledge the opposing viewpoint.** Write down at least one argument that a prospective opponent might use to support a point of view contrary to yours. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you refute that viewpoint? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. The prompt requires you to synthesize at least **three** sources. Which three would you choose?  
Source 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Support for your position: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How should it be cited within the paper? \_\_\_\_\_

Source 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Support for your position: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How should it be cited within the paper? \_\_\_\_\_

Source 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Support for your position: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How should it be cited within the paper? \_\_\_\_\_