### Synthesis Question: General Analytic Rubric (adapted from Collegeboard.org)

#### Row A: Thesis, 0-1 point

**0 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.

**1 point**
- Responds to the prompt with a defensible thesis that may establish a line of reasoning

**Responses that do not earn this point:**
- The intended thesis only restates the prompt.
- The intended thesis is vague, must be inferred, does not take a position, equivocates or summarizes other’s arguments but not the student’s (e.g., some people say it’s good, some people say it’s bad).
- The intended thesis simply states an obvious fact rather than making a claim that requires a defense.

**Responses that earn this point:**
- The thesis responds to the prompt rather than restating or rephrasing the prompt and the thesis clearly takes a position rather than just stating there are pros/cons.

*Note: Thesis may be one or more sentences anywhere in the response. Can be awarded the point whether or not the response successfully supports the reasoning.*

#### Row B: Evidence AND Commentary, 0-4 points (Evidence should be ethos, logos, and pathos, not generic quotes.)

**0 points**
- Simply restates thesis (if present).
- Fewer than 2 of the provided sources are referenced.
- Provides examples that are generally irrelevant and/or incoherent.

**1 point**
- Provides evidence from or references at least two of the provided sources.
- Evidence provided must be relevant to the subject of the prompt.
- Provides little or no commentary.

**2 points**
- Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources.
- Evidence provided must be relevant to the subject of the AND
  - Provides commentary; however, it repeats, oversimplifies, or misinterprets the cited information or evidence.

**3 points**
- Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources.
- Evidence provided must be relevant to the thesis.
- AND
  - Provides commentary that explains the relationship between evidence and the thesis; however, commentary is uneven, limited, or incomplete.

**4 points**
- Provides evidence from or references at least three of the provided sources.
- Evidence provided must be relevant to the thesis.
- AND
  - Provides well-developed commentary that consistently and explicitly explains the relationship between the evidence and the thesis.

**Typical responses that earn 0 points:**
- Are incoherent or do not address the prompt.
- May offer just opinion or repeat the ideas from a single source.
- Do not reference information from any of the provided sources.

**Typical responses that earn 1 point:**
- Only uses 2 of the provided sources.

**Typical responses that earn 2 points:**
- Provide commentary that frequently misunderstands, misrepresents, or overgeneralizes complex ideas (is reductive).
- Summarize conflicting positions from the sources but fails to compare, contrast, or reach a conclusion.

**Typical responses that earn 3 points:**
- Provide commentary that is well-developed in places but with occasional lapses into description or summary (rather than explanation).
- Provide commentary that is clear but there are times when the link between the evidence and the thesis may be strained.

**Typical responses that earn 4 points:**
- Provide commentary that engages specific details from the sources to draw conclusions.
- Integrate evidence from sources throughout to support the student’s reasoning.

*Note: Writing that suffers from grammatical and/or mechanical errors that interfere with communication cannot earn the fourth point in this row.*

#### Row C: Sophistication, 0-1 point

**Responses that do not earn this point:**
- Attempt to contextualize their interpretation, but such attempts consist of predominantly sweeping generalizations.
- Only hint or suggest other possible interpretations.
- Examine individual rhetorical choices but do not examine the relationships among different choices throughout the text.
- Oversimplify complexities of the topic and/or the text.
- Use complicated or complex sentences or language that are ineffective in that they do not enhance the argument.

**Responses that earn this point may demonstrate a sophistication of thought or develop a complex literary argument by doing any of the following:**

1. Crafting a thesis that demands nuanced consideration of textual evidence to prove – and then successfully proves it.
2. Explaining the significance or relevance of an Interpretation within a broader context.
3. Engaging concession, rebuttal, and/or refutation of other arguments relating to the thesis.
4. Recognizing and accounting for contradictions and complexities within the text.
5. Making effective rhetorical choices that strengthen the force and impact of the student’s argument.
6. Utilizing a prose style that is especially vivid, persuasive, convincing, or appropriate to the student’s argument.

*Note: This point should be awarded only if the demonstration of sophistication or complex understanding is part of the argument, not merely a phrase or reference.*