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English Comp I

Paper #3: Explanatory Synthesis

For the paper three assignment, write an explanatory synthesis of Amanda Ripley's "The Case Against High School Sports," Daniel Bowen and Collin Hitt's essay "High School Aren't Killing Academics," and Kai Sato's "The Case for High School Sports." In synthesizing sources, you want to determine how they relate to each other, explaining how the authors view important subtopics and how they try to support their viewpoints with evidence and reasoning. To write a synthesis of the assigned articles, you might follow these steps:

1. Identify several of the most important subtopics to which both authors refer.
2. Organize the major sections of your paper around these subtopics.
3. In each section of the body of your paper, paraphrase both authors' perspectives on one of these important subtopics, first explaining one author's view, and then explaining the other author's view.
4. In each section of the body of your paper, also explain what evidence and reasoning both authors use to support their perspectives.
5. After drafting the paragraphs in the body of your paper, write an introduction that reviews the similarities and differences of your topic and sets up the rest of the paper. To review these similarities/differences, mention what your topic is and summarize the authors' divergent approaches to the topic. To set up the rest of your essay, include an essay map that mentions the important subtopics around which you will objectively synthesize the authors' approaches (*You will not need an argumentative thesis for this paper*).
6. After drafting the introductory material and the body, write a conclusion that explains the significance of your topic. You might also try to end the conclusion with an interesting quotation or question.
7. Include parenthetical citations after all summarized, paraphrased, and quoted material within your essay.
8. Include a Works Cited Page at the end of your paper.

After you have drafted the entire paper, revise it first in terms of content and organization and then in terms of grammar and punctuation. When you focus on content and organization, pay attention to the transitions between authors' viewpoints and between subtopics. The suggested length for this assignment is four to five pages.