

# Make Your OWN Advanced Placement English Language Q1 Synthesis Prompt (in brainstorming for how to pick your TOK Oral Presentaiton topic in Q1)

As you see on the back side of this page, all AP Language Q1 prompts have the same title page. You will need one as well. The "directions" section is always the same so you can copy that or skip it, but you will need:

**1) Introduction** – informational overview of the topic under consideration. Generally, you identify at least two perspectives on the topic (normally in opposition). See your AP Language exam folders on CD-R you got in English class...

**2) Assignment** – focus or narrow the scope of your essay assignment and THEN write the "Write an essay in which you..." sentence. This is the most important sentence (or two) of this entire activity (see the bold, underline example below in 2013 or check the other following examples).

**3) List of Sources:** for Sources A-C you can choose how you divide short articles that are a) objective/neutral/informative; b) pro; c) con. Also, consider getting sources from clearly legitimate sources (NY Times, Wall Street Journal, Time, etc) and some from very weird places (personal blogs, , twitter post, letters to the editor, etc) or at least from a non-traditional media form (Huffington Post, internet, a transcript from a radio interview or TV show). See below for info on Sources D, E. YOU CAN CHOOSE TO HAVE MORE THAN 5 SOURCES (since AP sometimes gives 6 or 7). Include author name or identifying information in parenthesis next to source letter like AP does. Label your Sources (A-E) when you attach them after your title page.

A

B

C

D – must have a statistical source (pie chart, bar graph, Excel file, an infoblurb, etc)

E – must have a visual source (cartoon, drawing, photo, etc)

**4) Your actual 5 (or more) sources.** Most sources will be one page, but none should be longer than 2 pages.

## Actual AP Language Q1 issues/topics:

07 = pos vs negative effects of specific contexts of advertising

08 = pro vs con on the abolition of the penny coin

09 = your plans for the future of the space program (NASA)

10 = see attached: on the proper role of technology integration in school instruction

10b = consider daylight savings time and offer a recommendation about its continued use (or not)

11 = the pos/neg implications of the rise of the locavores community

11b = the extent to which government should be involved in the fostering of "green" practices

12 = how to restructure the US Postal Service in a changing world

2013 = The need to memorialize events or people is complex; in some cases, monuments honor moments of great achievement, while in other cases, monuments pay homage to deep sacrifice. A monument's size, location, and materials are all considerations in planning and creating a memorial to the past. Read the following seven sources carefully, including the introductory information for each source. Then, in a well-organized essay that synthesizes at least three of the sources for support, examine the factors a group or agency should consider in memorializing an event or person and in creating a monument.

## Other examples:

SEE YOUR first real world situation & Knowledge Issue generated assignment (from Week 1 of school)

SEE pg2 or the entire blue TOK Oral Presentation packet for suggestions

People get fired/students getting rejected from colleges for inappropriate social media postings/profiles (the proper limits / role of digital privacy and ownership of your digital identity)

The rise and implications of raw (unpasteurized) milk

Why/when science changes positions (the Higgs-Boson, the idea of particles faster than speed of light, how "junk" DNA isn't junk after all

The proper role or # to grant of H1B visas                      The merits or futility of beach replenishment projects

NYC ban on big cups of soda (the proper role of government as a watchdog or how to implement "sin taxes")

Sexuality in pro sports (transgendered MMA fighters and competitive disadvantages, Jason Collins' coming out, etc)

Implications of the revisions to DSM-V                      Perspectives on the millenials generation

The right time of morning to start public school OR perspectives on standardized tests or how to judge teachers

The implications of the rise of for-profit universities (Univ. of Phoenix, etc)

Shifting ideas and business models surrounding ownership and/vs. sharing (Zipcar, AirBNB, etc)

The importance of true meritocracy in college admissions decisions

The rise of MOOCs, Khan Academy and/or the implications/responsibilities in a digital or flipped classroom

Pre-emptive surgery due to knowledge of personal genomes/genetics (Jolie's double mastectomy) OR the role of celebrities in altering public perception of colonoscopies, foreign aid, etc

**THE BEST TIP IN SPOTTING A TOPIC IS TO LOOK AT SOMETHING YOU ARE ALREADY PASSIONATE AND THINKING ABOUT (AND HOPEFULLY FOR YOUR FUTURE IN TOK IT MIGHT HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ACQUISITION OF, ACCEPTANCE OF, REVISIONS TO "KNOWLEDGE" IN SOME PARTICULAR FIELD OR SOME ISSUE THAT REQUIRES A VARIETY OF EXPERTS/STACKHOLDERS TO TRIANGULATE A POSITION ABOUT IT OR SOME NEW PHENOMENOM THAT WE ALL HAVING QUITE YET FIGURED HOW TO MAKE SENSE OF [EX: use of robots in elderly care]**

2009 AP® ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION  
FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS (Form B)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

SECTION II

Total time—2 hours

Example 1

Question 1

(Suggested time—40 minutes. This question counts for one-third of the total essay section score.)

**Directions:** The following prompt is based on the accompanying seven sources.

This question requires you to synthesize a variety of sources into a coherent, well-written essay. When you synthesize sources you refer to them to develop your position and cite them accurately. *Your argument should be central; the sources should support this argument. Avoid merely summarizing sources.*

Remember to attribute both direct and indirect references.

**Introduction**

Mass public schooling has traditionally proclaimed among its goals the following: (1) to help each student gain personal fulfillment and (2) to help create good citizens. These two goals—one aimed at the betterment of individuals and the other aimed at the betterment of society—might seem at odds with one another. At the very least, these two goals are a cause of much tension within schools at every level: schools want students to be allowed or encouraged to think for themselves and pursue their own interests, but schools also believe that it is right in some circumstances to encourage conformity in order to socialize students.

**Assignment**

Read the sources that follow (including the introductory information) carefully. Then choose an issue related to the tension in schools between individuality and conformity. You might choose an issue such as dress codes, mandatory classes, or the structure of the school day. You do not have to choose an issue that you have experienced personally. **Then, write an essay in which you use this issue to argue the extent to which schools should support individuality or conformity. Synthesize at least three of the sources for support.**

You may refer to the sources by their titles (Source A, Source B, etc.) or by the descriptions in the parentheses.

- Source A (Gatto)
- Source B (Bell schedule)
- Source C (Book cover)
- Source D (Postman)
- Source E (Holt)
- Source F (Photo)
- Source G (Expectations)