**THE SKILLS NECESSARY TO DO WELL WITH THE SYNTHESIS QUESTION CAN BE CATEGORIZED AS:**

1. **Comprehension of the prompt**

* Have you accomplished all tasks presented by the prompt?
* Have you considered words such as “implications,” “evaluate,” etc.?
* Have you made your argument central, even though the question may require you to “consider the issues” or “consider all the implications”?

1. **Comprehension and critique of individual verbal and visual texts**

* Have you evaluated the bibliographic information from each source?
* When you use a source, have you correctly interpreted it?
* If your opinion contradicts the sources, have you properly used your opposing opinion as a concession or counterpoint?

1. **Synthetic or “holistic” comprehension of a multi-perspectival inquiry—the “academic conversation” represented by the sources collectively**

* Do you understand all the facets of the issue in general?
* Are you able to distinguish among the perspectives presented?
* Are you able to group some perspectives together?
* Have you accounted for the fact that your opinion is not the only opinion?
* Think Rogerian argument.

1. **Academic argumentation, the student’s own entry into the conversation**

* Have you added your own experience, observation, reading, course material?
* If you have no experience, have you imagined the perspectives involved and tried to place yourself in another’s shoes?

1. **Acknowledgement and explanation of other sources’ contributions to the students’ argument**

* Have you used sources in a supporting role to your own central argument?
* Have you used at least one source to reveal opposing perspectives?
* If you noticed “proofiness” or fallacies in the sources, did you refute it OR avoid it?