

## Stance & Synthesis

**Part 1: Stance** refers to your position on an argument, and the implied relationship you create with the subject & the reader. When you develop **Stance**, you position yourself in relation to readers, becoming an analyst speaking from a particular point of view to readers who become your audience. Don't hide your position from readers. Veiling your **Stance** can cause readers to suspect you of being deceptive or disingenuous, or uncertain about your position on or your understanding of a topic or argument. Hiding **Stance** can negatively affect ethos. That said, there are strategic reasons for adopting a subtler stance.

- **Stance** relates to/is an extension of, and helps more strongly establish your **Motive** in an essay introduction. If **Motive** explains *how* or *why* your argument matters, **Stance** conveys the *degree* of emphasis, urgency, carefulness, or challenge with which you strategically engage readers.
- **Stance** helps you to more emphatically develop other “I Say” parts of your argument: Thesis assertion claim, ACE assertion claims, and explanation and analysis.
- **Stance** can be strengthened by using diction that conveys particular connotations that affirm your point of view and desired style and tone (e.g. familiar, formal, strong, inquisitive, aggressive, approachable, inviting, etc.)
- **Stance** also involves your willingness or unwillingness to orient a general, non-expert reader according to your particular argument strategy or Motive—i.e. drawing the reader in, setting up a rhetorical ambush, anticipating disagreement or reluctance in the reader, etc.

**Part 2: Synthesis:** Synthesis involves combining two or more ideas together to form a *new idea* or to add additional support for an Assertion claim. Synthesis determines the common elements of 2+ texts or authors, while analyzing the mutuality of their arguments. Words & phrases to use & that explain what synthesis does are in the chart below (this is not an exhaustive list):

|             |              |             |          |          |           |              |          |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|-----------|--------------|----------|
| both        | combine      | common      | compare  | concerns | draws on  | explain      | organize |
| integrate/d | rearrange    | reconstruct | propose  | relate/d | share/d   | jointly      | mutual   |
| synthesize  | both authors | correlate   | together | similar  | analogous | collectively |          |

### WHEN to Synthesize

- Synthesize to support a new idea that you have discerned from examining several texts.
- Synthesize when bringing together more than one text or idea that have common elements
- Synthesize to create new knowledge
- *Synthesize to support an I Say Assertion more strongly by using multiple sources*

### HOW to develop an ACE Stance + Synthesis Paragraph

- Identify common content or arguments, major Keyterms, and what YOU think about them.
- Write an I SAY Synthesis Assertion that makes a strong claim about 2 authors or texts OR Write an I SAY Assertion that makes a strong claim, followed by a Synthesis Sentence that connects the two texts or authors you are bringing together
- Cite quotations from EACH SOURCE as evidence to support your assertion.
- Explain the meaning & significance of EACH piece of cited evidence from BOTH sources
- Use parallelism: be consistent with order: i.e. always discuss text A first and text B second.
- Use succinct concrete diction language to convey **Stance** & language of synthesis (see chart above)
- ACE evolves into: SA→SYN→C→E→C→E: *Stance Assertion-Synthesis-Citation-Explanation-Citation-Explanation* OR SYNA→C→E→C→E: *Synthesis Assertion-Citation-Explanation-Citation-Explanation* OR StSynA→C→E→C→E: *Stance Synthesis Assertion- Citation-Explanation-Citation-Explanation*

**HW: PRELIM 2C: ACE STANCE SYNTHESIS PARAGRAPH:** Compose a draft of an ACE Stance Synthesis paragraph that combines/synthesis information/ideas/arguments/evidence, or parallels about seeing/vision/ocularcentrism from 2 readings. You will support your claim & synthesis by citing & explaining evidence from both readings; Label the parts of your paragraph (SA, SYN, SYNA, S/SYN/A, C, E, etc.

\* Note: A Synthesis Sentence is NOT necessarily an I SAY Stance Assertion; but an I SAY Stance Assertion can be perform synthesis. If you begin a paragraph with a Synthesis Sentence, but it only shows a connection, but doesn't make an assertion claim, it will likely lack an I SAY Stance Assertion; consequently, you risk merely summarizing or describing arguments of 2 sources you should be synthesizing, rather than citing & analyzing & synthesizing evidence from them to support YOUR argument.

The first sentence of your ACE Stance Synthesis Paragraph can combine both YOUR I SAY Stance Assertion and a Synthesis Sentence; however, although this does add another layer of complexity, it is very difficult to pull off as a complete sentence.

### Sample Synthesis & Stance Synthesis Assertions:

- Both Plato and Foucault are both concerned with surveillance
- Both Plato and Foucault adamantly profess a concern about surveillance
  
- Plato, Debord, and Foucault demonstrate a common understanding of how spectacle limits a sighted person's ability to see his or her environment ...
- Plato, Debord, and Foucault critique how spectacle controls our ability to see our environment ...
  
- Both Plato and Aristotle were ocularcentric philosophers
- Both Plato's and Aristotle's ocularcentrism was limited by their reliance on the naked eye.
  
- Examples of surveillance that manage our vision can be found in both Foucault and Plato...
- Both Plato and Foucault describe troubling examples of how surveillance controls our vision

Abbreviation Key:  
for labeling  
paragraphs

S/A = Stance Assertion  
SYNA = Synthesis Assertion  
C = Citation (quoted evidence)  
S/SYNA=Stance Synthesis Assertion

SYN = Synthesis Sentence  
QW = Quotation Weaving  
E = Explanation/Analysis  
S/E = Stance Explanation

\* You can also make your own abbreviation key for labeling the parts of your paragraphs \*