

Rhetorical Synthesis Worksheet

Passages are given after

Q1. The student wants to emphasize the thoroughness of Ida Tarbell's investigation of the Standard Oil Company. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal? Choose 1 answer:

- a) Ida Tarbell not only interviewed Standard Oil executives, oil industry workers, and public officials but also examined thousands of pages of the company's internal communications.
- b) As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.
- c) Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell's book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company's unfair business practices.
- d) Ida Tarbell, who investigated the Standard Oil Company, was a muckraker (a journalist who sought to expose corruption in US institutions during the Progressive Era, 1897–1920).

Q2. The student wants to specify Project Orion's timeline. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal? Choose 1 answer:

- a) The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 brought Project Orion to an abrupt end.
- b) Physicist Stanislaw Ulam first proposed nuclear pulse propulsion in 1946, and in 1958, Project Orion was born.
- c) Project Orion launched in 1958, but was effectively shut down just five years later with the passage of the Partial Nuclear Test Ban treaty in 1963.
- d) Led by physicists Ted Taylor and Freeman Dyson, Project Orion lasted from 1946 to 1963, when the Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed.

Q3. The student wants to explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal? Choose 1 answer:

- a) The House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, including from Greece, India, and China.
- b) Founded in Iraq in the eighth century, the House of Wisdom employed many scholars as translators.
- c) Writings from the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata were preserved at the House of Wisdom.
- d) The House of Wisdom collected writings from different countries and created paper versions in Arabic to be studied and shared.

Q4. The student wants to present the study to an audience already familiar with environmental DNA. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal? Choose 1 answer:

- a) Researchers found Burmese python eDNA, or environmental DNA, in water samples; eDNA is the DNA in released cellular materials, such as shed skin cells.
- b) An analysis of eDNA can detect the presence of invasive species that are difficult to observe, such as constrictor snakes.
- c) Sara Oyler-McCance's researchers analyzed environmental DNA (eDNA)—that is, DNA from cellular materials released by organisms—in water samples from the Florida Everglades.
- d) Sara Oyler-McCance's researchers analyzed eDNA in water samples from the Florida Everglades for evidence of invasive constrictor snakes, which are difficult to observe.

Passages

1 While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- High-key lighting and low-key lighting are two styles of lighting used in film, television, and photography.
- In high-key lighting, the fill light (or secondary light) is raised to near the same level as the key light (or primary light), producing a low-contrast look.
- High-key lighting is often used in comedies and musicals to create a bright, cheerful mood.
- Low-key lighting is a style that uses a hard source of light to create strong shadows and contrast.
- In low-key lighting, the key light is often the only source of illumination, with fill lights used sparingly or not at all.
- Low-key lighting is commonly used in mysteries, thrillers, and film noir to create a sense of tension or suspense.

2 While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Yellowstone is a national park in the northwest United States.
- In 1995, gray wolves were reintroduced into the park.
- Since then, the number of gray wolves in the park has stabilized at roughly 100.
- This number is believed to be the park's carrying capacity.
- Carrying capacity describes the maximum number of a species that a specific environment's resources can sustain over time.

3 While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- In the early 1960s, the US had a strict national-origins quota system for immigrants.
- The number of new immigrants allowed from a country each year was based on how many people from that country lived in the US in 1890.
- This system favored immigrants from northern Europe.
- Almost 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany.
- The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system.

4 While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

- Annie Wu is a prominent American flutist who graduated from the New England Conservatory.
- She has won multiple national flute competitions.
- She is best known for a 2011 YouTube video that has been viewed over two million times.
- The video shows her performing *Three Beats for Beatbox Flute*, an original work by composer Greg Pattillo.
- Wu combines flute playing and beatboxing in the video.

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