

Rhetorical Synthesis Exercises Explained

Exercise 1:

1

- a) High-key and low-key lighting are both important techniques in cinematography that can guide the viewer's attention to specific areas of the frame.
This choice doesn't emphasize any differences between high-key and low-key lighting. Also, the effect of guiding the viewer's attention to specific areas of the frame is not mentioned in the notes.
- b) High-key lighting and low-key lighting are used across various film genres to reinforce the tone of the narrative, as lighting can accentuate the tension, suspense, or even cheerfulness of a given scene.
This choice doesn't emphasize any differences between high-key and low-key lighting. Rather, it describes in general what they are both used for in film.
- c) High-key lighting, which involves raising the fill light to near the same level as the key light, is often used in comedies and musicals to create a cheerful mood.
This choice doesn't emphasize any differences between high-key and low-key lighting. It only discusses high-key lighting.
- d) While high-key lighting creates the bright, low-contrast look often seen in comedies and musicals, low-key lighting produces the strong shadows and contrast seen in mysteries, thrillers, and noirs.
This is the best choice. It effectively distinguishes between high-key lighting and low-key lighting, describing the differences in their effects and in the genres that make use of them.

2

- a) As of 1995, there were gray wolves living in Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States.
This choice doesn't effectively specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. It mentions the year they were reintroduced but not how many there are currently.
- b) Yellowstone is a national park that has roughly 100 gray wolves living in it.
This is the best choice. It uses relevant information from the third bullet point to state the approximate number of gray wolves in Yellowstone.
- c) The carrying capacity of an environment, such as Yellowstone, describes the maximum number of species that the environment can sustain over time.
This choice doesn't effectively specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. It defines the term carrying capacity but doesn't connect it to the specific number of gray wolves currently living in the park.
- d) Gray wolves were reintroduced into Yellowstone, a national park in the northwest United States, in 1995.
This choice doesn't effectively specify the number of gray wolves in Yellowstone. It mentions the year they were reintroduced but not how many there are currently.

3

- a) most 70% of slots were reserved for immigrants from Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany at the time the Hart-Celler Act was proposed.
This choice doesn't present the *significance* of the Hart-Celler Act. Instead, it gives background information about the time period when the act was proposed.

Also, while it discusses immigration, it doesn't mention the *history* of US immigration in a way that would be clear and understandable to an audience unfamiliar with this topic.

- b) Prior to the Hart-Celler Act, new immigration quotas were based on how many people from each country lived in the US in 1890.
This doesn't present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act. While this choice does give some background information about the history of US immigration that would help an audience unfamiliar with this topic understand it better, it doesn't provide enough information about the act specifically.
- c) The quota system in place in the early 1960s was abolished by the 1965 Hart-Celler Act.
This choice is too vague. It doesn't even include the word *immigration*, nor does it provide enough specific information about the national-origins quota system.
- d) The 1965 Hart-Celler Act abolished the national-origins quota system, which favored immigrants from northern Europe.
This is the best choice. It effectively uses information from the first, third, and fourth bullet points to present the significance of the Hart-Celler Act to an audience unfamiliar with the history of US immigration.

4

- a) Among her many achievements, prominent American flutist Annie Wu graduated from the New England Conservatory and has won multiple national flute competitions.
This choice doesn't emphasize Wu's most well-known achievement—it describes several of her achievements equally.
- b) Composer Greg Pattillo's original work Three Beats for Beatbox Flute combines flute playing and beatboxing.
This choice doesn't emphasize Wu's most well-known achievement. It describes a piece of music featured in her most well-known achievement.
- c) Annie Wu is best known for a 2011 YouTube video performance of Three Beats for Beatbox Flute that has been viewed over two million times.
This is the best choice. This describes the achievement for which Wu is best known.
- d) Annie Wu, who has won multiple national flute competitions, has also combined flute playing and beatboxing.
This choice doesn't emphasize Wu's most well-known achievement. It mentions some of her general achievements, but not the one for which she is "best known".

Exercise 2

1

- 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.
This is the best choice. It describes Tarbell's investigation and the lengths she went to complete it.
- b) As part of her investigation of the Standard Oil Company, muckraker Ida Tarbell conducted interviews.

This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. Tarbell didn't *only* conduct interviews—she also “examined thousands of pages of the company’s internal communications”.

- c) Published in 1904, muckraker Ida Tarbell’s book *The History of the Standard Oil Company* exposed the company’s unfair business practices.

This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. It describes her book but doesn't include anything about her investigation.

- 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).

This choice doesn't describe how thorough Tarbell was. Instead, it gives a biographical sketch.

2

- a) The Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963 brought Project Orion to an abrupt end.

This choice doesn't effectively specify the project's timeline. It reports the project's end and what caused it, but nothing about its start.

- b) Physicist Stanislaw Ulam first proposed nuclear pulse propulsion in 1946, and in 1958, Project Orion was born.

This choice doesn't effectively specify the project's timeline. It only says when nuclear pulse propulsion, the concept the project intended to explore, was proposed, and when the project started.

- 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.

This is the best choice. By saying that the project began in 1958 and ended in 1963, this choice specifies the timeline that aligns with the student's notes.

- d) Led by physicists Ted Taylor and Freeman Dyson, Project Orion lasted from 1946 to 1963, when the Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed.

This choice misstates information from the student's notes. Project Orion started in 1958, according to the notes. The theory the project intended to explore was first proposed in 1946.

3

- a) The House of Wisdom was known for bringing together knowledge from around the world, including from Greece, India, and China. This doesn't explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge. Instead, it discusses what the House of Wisdom was known for.

- b) Founded in Iraq in the eighth century, the House of Wisdom employed many scholars as translators. This doesn't explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge. Instead, it specifies when and where the library was founded and mentions that it employed many translators.

- c) Writings from the Greek philosopher Aristotle and the Indian mathematician Aryabhata were preserved at the House of Wisdom. This doesn't explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge. Instead, it names authors whose works were preserved in the library.

- d) The House of Wisdom collected writings from different countries and created paper versions in Arabic to be studied and shared. **This is the best choice.** It effectively uses information from the third and fifth bullet points to explain how the House of Wisdom preserved the world's knowledge.

- 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.
This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with eDNA. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined or explained.
- b) An analysis of eDNA can detect the presence of invasive species that are difficult to observe, such as constrictor snakes.
This choice doesn't present the study. It only states a general fact about eDNA analysis.
- 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.
This choice isn't suited for an audience already familiar with eDNA. A familiar audience wouldn't need to have the term defined or explained. It also doesn't present the study.
- 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.
This is the best choice. It presents the study in a way that assumes the audience is already familiar with eDNA.

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