**Video/Visual Synthesis Essay Writing Exercises**

**I. Choose and Brainstorm at least 4 reasoning strategies**

* **Good news/Bad news**
* **Winners/Losers?**
* **That was Then; This is Now**
* **Degree to Which (on a scale of ….)**
* **Definition or Extended Definition**
* **Prediction for the Future**
* **Cause and Effect**
* **Compare and Contrast**
* **Historical Significance**
* **Unintended Consequences**
* **Classification: Classify “types of”**
* **Is it true all the time? Exceptions to the rule?**
* **Realistic/Idealistic? Reality/Illusion?**
* **Chaos vs. order – Good vs. Evil – karma?**
* **Is there an underlying prejudice?**
* **Is pride involved?**
* **Necessary or Unnecessary?**
* **Social justice/injustice; Punishment? Revenge?**
* **Economic Considerations**
* **Natural balance – nature vs. society?**
* **Literal or Figurative/Abstract or Concrete**
* **Society/Cultural Norm? Or Not?**
* **Original/New or Outdated/Old? Tradition vs. Innovation/Change/Invention?**
* **Creation vs. Destruction/Creates or Destroys?**
* **Repetitive/Redundant/Overused?**
* **Myth? Misunderstanding? Legend?**

**2. Write one more warrant paragraph in a structure: classification and division, extended definition,**

**process analysis, cause and effect, compare and contrast**

**3. Create an “imagine if” or hypothetical situation**

**Imagine, John Lennon**

Imagine there's no heaven  
It's easy if you try  
No hell below us  
Above us only sky  
Imagine all the people  
Living for today...  
  
Imagine there's no countries  
It isn't hard to do  
Nothing to kill or die for  
And no religion too  
Imagine all the people  
Living life in peace...  
  
You may say I'm a dreamer  
But I'm not the only one  
I hope someday you'll join us  
And the world will be as one

**4. Create one refutation and one concession**

**#5:** **Form a web to help develop rhetorical strategies in one of your warrants**.

* Put your **warrant or important “point” in one circle/square**.
* Use a sentence with **figurative language** (simile, metaphor, personification etc…)
* Use a **sentence with rhetorical syntax** (anaphora, epistrophe, expanded list etc…)
* Use **a hyperbole** *or* **point out in analysis one of the following: Irony, Paradox,**

**Juxtaposition**

6: **Use alpha box for extra ideas**: **Use alpha to create words with strong connotation, alliteration, phrases and ideas**

**Sample Alpha Box:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **B** | **C** | **D** |
| **E** | **F** | **G** | **H** |
| **I** | **J** | **K** | **L** |
| **M** | **N** | **O** | **P** |
| **Q** | **R** | **S** | **T** |
| **U** | **V** | **W** | **XYZ** |

7.**Write 2 Transitional Paragraphs**

* + - * + Could act as a “lead” to the next paragraph
        + Could define a concept prior to the new paragraph
        + Could be used to create an “image” or a story/anecdote
        + Statistics
        + Connecting Information between 2 ideas
        + Quick historical or “news” background