



Disciplinary Literacy



Handout #9

Summarizing From & Synthesizing Across Texts: Questions Into Paragraphs

Driving Questions: How did the authors persuade their audience?

Learning Set Question: Which argument is more effective?

Sub-Questions	Common Sense, Thomas Paine	Plain Truth, James Chalmers	Thoughts on Govt., John Adams
1. What is the source of the text?	<i>Common Sense, the source, is a political pamphlet written in 1776 by the patriot, Thomas Paine.</i>		
2. What is the author's argument?	<i>Paine argues that the monarchy & the English Constitution are outdated, unwieldy, & don't effectively support the people (colonists).</i>		
3. What rhetorical devices does the author use to influence his audience?	<i>Paine appeals to the audience by using reason & logic; his arguments are supported with specific examples.</i>		
SUMMARY	<i>Common Sense is a political pamphlet written by Thomas</i>		

	<i>Paine. Using examples, reason & logic to support his beliefs, Paine argues that an absolute government does not serve the people well.</i>		
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Adapted from Moje, E. *“But My English Teacher Said...” Supporting Students in Learning How to Read and Write in the Natural & Social Sciences.*

In Rivet, A., Marri, A., Lyons, Y., eds. (2010). *Proceedings of the Content Area Literacy Conference July 7-8, 2010.* New York, NY: Teachers College Columbia University. p.138. Adapted from: McLaughlin, E. M. (1987). QulP: A writing strategy to improve comprehension of expository structure. *The Reading Teacher*, v. 40, n. 7, pp. 650-654.