

Templates and Logical Building Blocks

Overview

Synthesis may be an Hegelian constant, the inner workings of which are so internalized in our minds as scholars that the moves needed to bring various—and interdisciplinary—perspectives together into something new can seem to our students like magic.

In truth, the work of creating synthesis is more logic than magic. And we can offer students various structures to guide the logical building of synthetic argument.

Structures

Confluence

Templates

- Piggy-Back / Sedimentation
- Sparring Partners / Tectonic Plates
- Family Portrait / Light Spectrum
- A Parade / Tributaries

- ☞ IN CLASS: have students try out templates (modifying them as needed); use template as starting point to dialogue in pairs, each explaining her argument
- ☞ Templates can be the starting point of actual paragraphs for a paper; or they can be ways to organize thinking before drafting

Sequence

Logical Building Blocks

- conjunctions: FANBOYS
- conjunctive adverbs
- other transition language

- ☞ IN CLASS: engage students in kinetic/visual activity of configuring their sources and argument

