You will compare your own synthesis essay from the last exam to the examples of other English 12 students below. What is similar? How can you improve your writing to move it into the next category?

Discuss the ways in which Hap, the dairy farmer in “The Soul of Capitalism,” would likely respond to Warhol’s art as described in “When Canada Met Andy.” You must refer to both passages in your essay.

Scale: 2

Comment: This paper is a '2'. There is a significant misreading in this response; while the student attempts to address the topic (as evidenced in the introductory paragraph), the misunderstanding of Warhol's work (as evidenced in the second paragraph) prevents the student from scoring more than a '2'. Errors are evident throughout the paper.

Although Hap is a dairy farmer, he is also a lover of art. He is not very interesting in the modern art. Hap is more interesting in the art of landscapes and seascapes as mention in the paragraph nineteen. “Hap liked the landscapes and seascapes and the portraits and battle scenes.’

Furthermore, in the article, “When Canada Met Andy” the art is shown on Tomato Juice boxes and Tomato Soup Cans. This art is related with today’s capitalism. Hap says that modern companies have modern artists to make label on different products to attract the customers. Hap also says that modern art is also very costly and its price is in millions. It is only the part of art galleries.

Another way of Hap’s thinking about Warhol’s art is that it only become the part of galleries. Warhol’s art is liked by rich people and canadian government.

In summary, according to Hap, Warhol’s art is more commercial. There are not any natural scenes in his art.

Scale: 3

Comment: This is a minimally acceptable response. While the response accurately depicts what Hap's probable response to Warhol's art may be and the reasoning why, the discussion is compromised by distracting errors in written expression. There is sense of purpose and an attempt at synthesis even though the discussion is underdeveloped.

Tradiational Art is valuable and memorable art. According to Hap there is no patention in modern art. Hap likes tradiational art that has some meaning to it. He doesn’t admire the modern art.

Warhol was trying to bring something modern to the society. He wanted the Canadians to by his new products. He brought that modern thing to tradiational stuff. He wanted people to accept it, to try it. It worked in America, but not lot of people enjoyed it in Canada.
If Hap was to look at Warhol’s work he wouldn’t appreciate it as well. Because he is more of a traditional person. He doesn’t really know much about the modern art. He would think of it as unprofessional work. Modern art is just a way to make money. It is not an art that comes from the bottom of your heart.

Finally he would hate it. He wouldn’t admire it at all.

Scale: 4

Comment: This "4" paper is clearly adequate but literal. Synthesis is evident but analysis is straightforward and lacks subtlety. At times Hap's likely response is overstated as the student writes Hap "shows signs of disgust" to some modern art. However, the response is clearly focused on the task.

Artwork can be seen differently through the eyes of different people. In “The Soul of Capitalism”, Hap, the dairy farmer responds negatively towards modern art. He cannot view modern and abstract art the same way as traditional art and does not think modern art is worth anything. To Hap, something is not art unless he is able to tell what it is supposed to be.

Hap and his wife Edna, are both art lovers but in a traditional sense. Warhol is a pop art and modern art artist, meaning his campbell’s soup can painting is very likely seen as nothing more than just a picture of a can to Hap. Hap is not able to view different forms of art as art because he cannot relate what he is not interested in, to be art. He shows signs of disgust towards any type of art that does not display a straight-forward or blunt meaning. Hap will not consider the box sculptures as art either, the same way charles comfort thinks and he would not be willing to pay much money for it as well.

Hap never learns to appreciate modern art and compared to traditional art, he sees them as worthless. He will never love or cherish artworks, such as warhol’s, because Hap does not see them as more than just and object.

Scale: 5

Comment: This upper level response demonstrates a clear understanding of task and content. Synthesis is apparent throughout the response and the student integrates appropriate quotations well. This response utilizes good vocabulary and while the organization and writing are strong, it lacks the strength of a "6."

From Nancy Tousley’s “When Canada Met Andy” and Robert Collins’ “The Soul of Capitalism”, readers are able to understand that modern art can be intriguing at times as it
invokes different reactions from different audiences. And these various attitudes suggest modern art can indeed be perplexing, controversial, but memorable.

Modern art can be perplexing to audiences, and Hap, the dairy farmer, is obviously one of these befuddled viewers. As suggested in the second essay, Hap cannot help but regard “The Soul of Capitalism” as nothing else but “That Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire”. From his above reaction, we can quickly conclude he lacks the unique understanding of the modern art. He is unable to peek underneath the surface to dig out the hidden truth as he can only see what is presented to him in the most simplistic way. Thus, after examining his reaction to the wired ball, we find it easy to suggest that Hap will most likely react to Warhol’s art the same way Mr. Comfort does: “I don’t classify... as sculpture” (Nancy Tousley; 6). Indeed, Modern art is perplexing whereas not everyone has the knack of handling it.

Moreover, modern art can be controversial at the same time. According to Hap, he sees not the metaphor “The Soul of Capitalism” is trying to convey because, in his own heart, he may find himself a distinctively different viewpoint. The bank officers, obviously, are not reading such piece of art as “the blood of the working class” (Collins; 31) or they won’t pay $15,000 for a taunt to themselves. From these tips, we may conclude Hap will generate his own, unique understanding to Warhol’s modern art.

Finally, modern art is indeed memorable. From the experience in “When Canada Met Andy”, we are able to realize that the introduction to modern art requires time. From Warhol’s initial “big nobody in Canada” to his final success: “Small... soup can for $11.8 million”, we see how dramatic such alternation can be 13; Figure 4 And, at the same time, such “mental leap” is proven to be the most defiant kind (14). From these indications of change, we can find ourselves easy to suggest that Mr. Hap is likely to remember Warhol’s art for a long period of time, and, after enough passage of time. Hap will gradually learn to appreciate such art form.

All in all, modern art can be hard and perplexing to understand, and Mr. Hap will certainly not pick up such skill in short period of time. It is however not to be laughed at if he reacts the same way Mr. Comfort does because, I believe, after certain amount of time, Mr. Hap will then realizes how to appreciate such intriguing art form.

Scale: 6

Comment: This paper is a 6. This insightful and engaging discussion is an excellent example of synthesis. The student is able to refer to each work in each of the body paragraphs in a way that directly answers the question. The thematic opening and conclusion sentences are effective. It is important to note that, as this is a first draft, some minor errors exist.

The qualifications for art are very subjective. What one individual may call beautiful or a profound critique on modern society another may completely disregard. Andy Warhol, who has come to be considered “as one of the 20th century’s major artistic innovators” (8-7), was not initially recieved with as much respect and admiration. The general opinion initially given
to Warhol’s art is likely similar to the opinion Hap, the dairy farmer in “The soul of Capitalism,”
would have held.

Although Hap is described as an “art lover” (1), his appreciation for art tends towards
the “traditional kind” (1). Warhol’s art is far from being considered traditional. As a pioneer of
the pop art movement his work broke many conventions and would have been a bold
contrast to the “host [of] several paintings and prints,” (2) most of which were landscapes, that
Hap and his wife Edna displayed. “As far as [Hap] is concerned, it’s not art if he can’t tell
what it is.” This approach to art is very similar to the approach taken by Canadian customs
towards Warhol’s art. The men at customs were unable to tell a “Warhol box sculpture from
the real thing, a [...] commercial product” (5). The initial opinion of Warhol’s work held by
Charles Comfort, the director of the National Gallery of Canada, was that he didn’t classify
the “processed cartons and tin cans as sculpture” (6). It is likely Hap would have held the
same opinion. His response to the government’s $2 million purchase of a painted red stripe
was one of astonishment. His ability to “tell what it was” (2) still caused him to call “it
something other than art” (2).

As the world’s stance on Warhol’s art changed though it is possible so too would
Hap’s. Warhol is now considered a “major artistic innovator [...] and [one of the] most
influential artists” (8). The successor to Comfort purchased “eight of Warhol’s Brillo Box
sculptures” (8). Although initially unsellable, “nearly four-and-a-half decades later, the same
canvases are worth millions” (Figure 4). Hap’s opinion of Warhol’s work might be elevated
over time. Although he might have initially “gazed open-mouthed” (30) as Warhol’s work
became mainstream and in-depth analysis were presented his opinion might have changed.
His reaction to Axel’s sculpture is bewilderment but he does resolve that he doesn’t “really
know much about modern art” (32).

Although the initial opinion given to Warhol’s work is likely similar to the opinion Hap,
the dairy farmer in “The Soul of Capitalism,” would have held it is possible that as Warhol’s
work moved out of the fringe and modern art labels Hap’s position might have softened.
Warhol has come to be considered one of the most important and influential figures in art.
The qualifications for art are very subjective. What one may consider beautiful or significant
another may disregard. As history has shown though, opinions change.