Writing a Source-Based Essay

Synthesizing is a process of using information from two or more sources in order to develop new ideas about a topic or to draw conclusions about it.

1. Read, annotate, and analyze sources
2. Prepare notes about your sources
3. Synthesize your sources with a tentative outline

Tentative outline: The Cause and Effect Essay

Thesis Statement: The effects of violent video games on children.

1. First cause or effect (topic sentence): These games enhance problem solving skills.
2. First major support (state your reason)
3. Second major support (reasons)
4. Second cause or effect: Games enhance eye-hand coordination and increase visual acuity.
5. First major support
6. Second major support
7. Third cause or effect: There is a direct relationship between playing violent video games and becoming violent I real life.
8. First major support
9. Second major support
10. Fourth cause or effect: Violent video games have no effect on children’s behavior.
11. First major support
12. Second major support