**Sample Backwards Revision Worksheet: “Synthesis in Ten Steps”**

**Unit Three: Two Source Synthesis**

*Objectives:* Understanding the relationship between comparison/contrast and synthesis; Learning how to integrate source material with individual opinion.

* **New Concept:** Synthesis
* **Continuing Topics:** Topic Sentences, Integrating Sources, Transitions, “The Good Paragraph”
* **Previous Concept:** Compare/Contrast, Using Quotations/Research

**Directions:** For homework, you read a sample synthesis paper and the assignment sheet for paper three. With this worksheet we will understand what synthesizing sources is, and we will be building on a concept already introduced in class: comparison and contrast. Through the steps below, we will be turning our comparison and contrast paragraphs into synthesis paragraphs.

**Part I: Preparing and Analyzing your Compare/Contrast:**

* **Step One:** read back over your comparison and contrast paragraphs.
* **Step Two:** write down which source you agree with most, and take about five minutes to free write about why you agree with them (and disagree with the other source).
* **Step Three:** Look back at the three main ideas you used to organize your comparison/contrast body paragraphs. Pick out your three main ideas.
* **Step Four:** Write a sentence in which you tell me what the main idea of each paragraph is and what your personal opinion on that topic is.
  + **Congratulations!** You’ve just written initial topic sentences for your synthesis paper.
* **Step Five:** Look back at your compare/contrast paragraphs. Underline sentences in your paragraphs that support your opinion. Put stars next to sentences that you contrast or disagree with your opinion.
* **Step Six:** For each underlined sentence, briefly tell me how it supports your opinion. For each starred sentence, tell me why it is incorrect or less correct than your own opinion.
  + **Congratulations!** You’ve just begun the explanation portion of your synthesis paper.
* **Step Seven:** look back through your first article. Find a couple more examples that support your opinion or agrees with you.
  + Mark these examples and tell me how each of these examples relate to the ideas you already have in your comparison/contrast paragraphs.
    - Are they adding information, contrasting information, building on information already presented, giving a new idea, and so on.
  + **Congratulations!** You’ve just begun the example and transition portions of your paragraphs.
* **Step Eight:** look back through your second article. Find a couple more examples that support your opinion or agrees with you.
  + Mark these examples and tell me how each of these examples relate to the ideas you already have in your comparison/contrast paragraphs.
    - Are they adding information, contrasting information, building on information already presented, giving a new idea, and so on.
  + **Congratulations!** You’ve just begun the example and transition portions of your paragraphs.
* **Step Nine:** Using Steps 6-8, begin drafting your paragraphs using the “Good Paragraph” formula.
* **Step Ten:** Count your sentences. Use the 3 Ex technique to break down your paragraphs.
  + Is at least 80% of the paragraph your opinion (exposition) or explanation (comparison/contrast/connections/relations)
  + Put an arrow where you need more synthesis.
  + Congratulations! You have now brainstormed for your synthesis paper.

*Next Step:* Outlining and Organizing

*Brief Reflection (Brainstorming for in-class journal entry)*:

* What have you learned about synthesis?
* How is synthesis related to comparison/contrast?