

Synthesis: The high schooler's Life Skills

This is an intro to synthesis activity, but it could be fun on a half-day or something of that sort. I realized that students don't think they come into the class with research skills, so I created this lesson so they could realize that they use somewhat decent research skills every day when dealing with their drama. Also, for those hard-to-reach kids who don't seem to care about AP or the skills, they will at least care about their drama, so they need these skills.

Get into groups of 3. Then, add all of your ages together. If the sum is an odd number, respond to prompt 1. If the sum is an even number, respond to prompt 2. Make sure to answer the prompt and integrate sources. All sources should be cited—feel free to cite parenthetically by referring to each source as Source A, Source B, Source C, etc. Sign the letter and hand it in when complete.

Prompt 1: In your group, write a letter to Marc that will help him with his situation.

The other day, Marc Tetreault and his girlfriend, Shirley Positive, got in a rather large fight. Now, they seemed to be getting along for the tenure of their relationship—2 weeks—but since the fight a lot of information has been revealed, and now Marc needs to make a decision about his relationship.

So, read the following sources and accompanying contextual information carefully. Then, in a letter that synthesizes from at least three of the sources for support, **evaluate the most important factors Marc should consider** when deciding whether or not to continue to date Shirley Positive.

Prompt 2: In your group, write a letter to Marc that will help him with his situation.

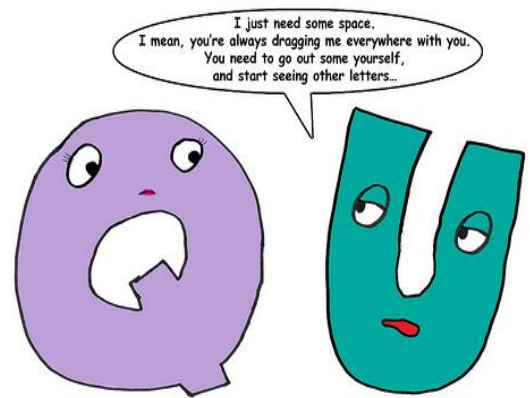
The other day, Marc Tetreault and his girlfriend, Shirley Positive, got in a rather large fight. Now, they seemed to be getting along for the tenure of their relationship—2 weeks—but since the fight a lot of information has been revealed, and now Marc needs to make a decision about his relationship.

So, read the following sources and accompanying contextual information carefully. Then, in a letter that synthesizes from at least three of the sources for support, **develop a position** about how Marc should handle his situation with Shirley from here.

After you read a source, make sure that you identify any warrants before you decide to use it in your letter.

Sources:

- A. Tweet from Shirley that arrived the night after her fight with Marc: "It's just doesn't seem worth it anymore."
- B. Danielle is a credible source for accurate school gossip, but she is also over-dramatic: she is always involved in some sort of school drama—yes, even the club—she has actually told Marc: "I actually was told by Sally" [the stupidest, most unreliable jerk in the school] "that Shirley was cheating on you with Joe."
- C. Zach, he's an interesting character, but none-the-less he is good friends with Shirley. (By the way, he actually likes her as well.) He revealed to Danielle, as they sat together on the bus, that: "I was talking to Shirley the other day, and she is convinced that Marc is cheating on her because Marc has been on the phone with Lindsey for the last two nights. I guess she is going to break up with him."
- D. Shirley Positive happens to be absolutely stunning. (i.e. She's a *fly hunnie*).
- E. Shirley Positive also has had 6 boyfriends in the last 3 months, but before that she dated one kid for 3 years (8th - 10th grade).
- F. Marc himself was overheard saying, after one week of dating: "I really enjoy hanging out with Shirley; she's cute, funny, and all around awesome. I love her."
- G. Mr. Freitas has publically told his classes: "I don't think dating in high school is very wise. In fact, unless you can picture yourself comfortably married within a year, you shouldn't be dating at all no matter what your age."
- H. Marc's best and favorite subject in school is English. He's a grammar wizard and loves reading and writing; EVERYONE knows this.
- I. It's also a well-known fact that Mark started dating Shirley the day after he broke up with his last girlfriend: Barb Dwyer.



J. The following was posted on Marc's Instagram four nights ago: ¹

A Garden of English Production: *GardenofEnglish2019*©

¹ Image taken from <https://supersushichan.wordpress.com/2010/05/12/q-and-u-break-up/>

2018 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION FREE-RESPONSE QUESTIONS
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION
SECTION II
Total time - 2 hours

Question 1

The other day, Marc Tetreault and his girlfriend of 6 months, Carly McIntosh, got in a rather large fight because he went to a bonfire at his friend Matt's house without her (Carly and Matt don't get along, so Marc knew she wouldn't have had fun anyway). Now, they seemed to be getting along for the last 2 weeks—but since the fight a lot of information has been revealed, and now Marc needs to make a decision about his relationship.

So, read the following sources and accompanying contextual information carefully. Then, in a letter that synthesizes from at least three of the sources for support, **evaluate the most important factors Marc should consider** when deciding whether or not to continue to date Carly McIntosh.

Source A (Schedules)
Source B (Statements)
Source C (Twitter)
Source D (Teen Magazine)
Source E (Text Messages)
Source F (Instagram)

Source A
Schedules

Marc

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11am Church 12pm Breakfast w/ Grandparents	4pm Bball practice	6pm Bball game	4pm bball practice 6pm Youth Group	4pm bball practice 6-10pm Study for precalc test with Anna	4pm Bball practice 8pm-1am Bonfire @ Matt's	Surprise Date with Carly! <3 6pm Melting Pot 8pm Movie

Carly

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Work 5-9	Study for financial algebra test w/Jack, John, and Sara		Work 5-9 Girls' Night In w/Sara!!	6-? Hang w/Marc

Source B
Statements

Danielle is a credible source for accurate school gossip, but she is also over-dramatic: she is always involved in some sort of school drama—yes, even the club—she has actually told Marc: “I actually was told by Sara that Carly was cheating on you with John. But you know how Sara can be...”

Zach, he’s an interesting character, but none-the-less he is good friends with Carly. (By the way, he actually likes her as well.) He revealed to Danielle, as they sat together on the bus, that: “I was talking to Carly the other day, and she is convinced that Marc is cheating on her because Marc has been on the phone with Anna for the last two nights. I guess Carly is going to break up with him.”

“Anna Peterson happens to be absolutely stunning. She’s a major flirt, though.” - JOSH

“Carly McIntosh also has had 6 boyfriends in the last year, but before that she dated one kid for 3 years (8th -10th grade).” - LINDSY

Marc was overheard saying, after one week of dating: “I really enjoy hanging out with Carly; she’s cute, funny, and all around awesome. I think I’m in love with her.”

Mr. Freitas has publically told his classes after a popular couple broke up a week earlier: “I don’t think dating in high school is very wise. In fact, unless you can picture yourself comfortably married within a year, you shouldn’t be dating at all no matter what your age.”

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Source C
Twitter



Carly McIntosh
@PrancerDancer29



Following

Netflix, junk food, and gossip w.Sara
#girlsnight #secretsecretsaresofun #bff
#fridaynite

↩ Reply ↻ Retweet ★ Favorite ⋮ More

9:35 PM - 20 Oct 17 · 2 comments

Source D
Teen Magazine

TEEN MAGAZINE 01/24/2013 05:28 pm ET Updated Jan 24, 2013

10 Reasons Dating in High School Is Overrated

We know, we know. The pressure to date in high school is overwhelming and often all-consuming, particularly for those of you who have not had your first BF/GF yet. If you find yourself regularly feeling left behind, or like you're the only one without a siggo, we have two secrets to share with you:

1. Everyone in your grade is just as stressed as you about dating. The guys, the girls... everyone. Even the ones paired off are stressed about being paired off.

2. This one is important, so pay close attention: flying through high school solo can actually be a much more fun experience.

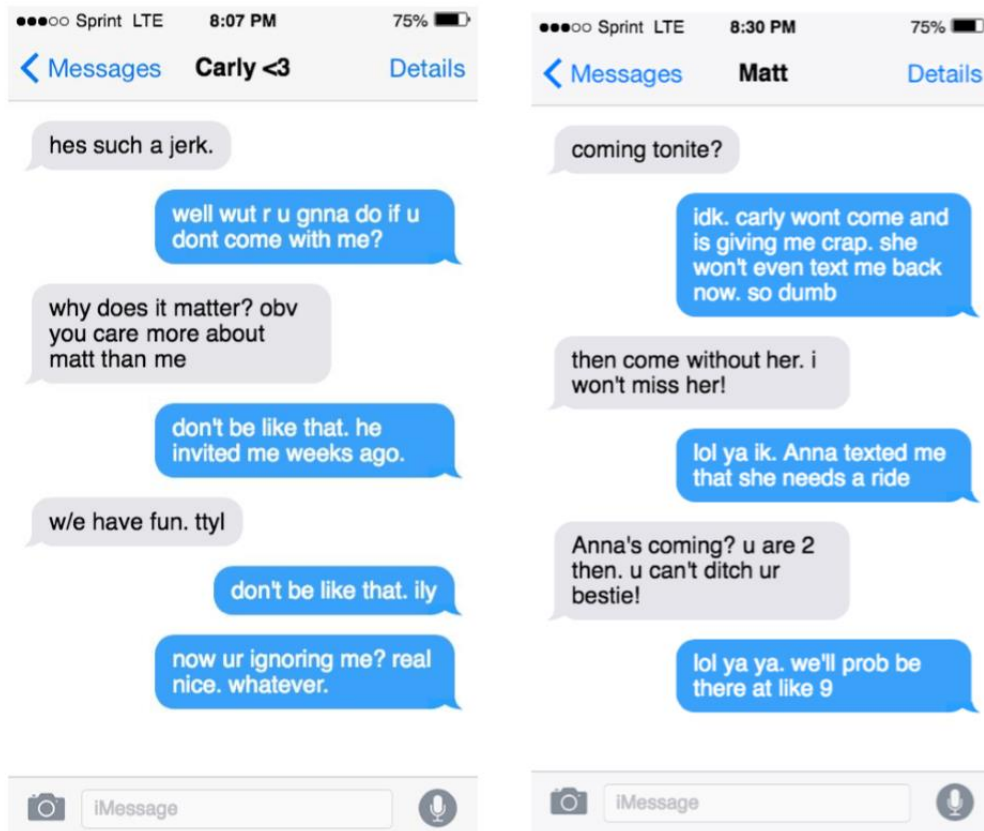
You may not even realize how many ways you have it better than your paired-off friends, but there are a ton. Click through the slideshow below for 10 reasons to enjoy your current life as part of a non-couple — and feel free to re-visit this every time you find yourself thinking, "OMG WHY AM I STILL SINGLE?"

You are single because you're awesome. And also, because dating in high school is way, way overrated.

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Source E
Text Messages on Marc's phone



Source F
Anna's Instagram



Liked by **MarcMan**, **mattschultz442**, **LindsayLoo**, **dancingqueen** and **129 others**

AnnaBananna Me and my fav guy at Matt's bonfire last night. No matter what, he's always got my back! (or... I have his? LOL) #bff #bestie #fall #lovehim @MarcMan

[View all 4 comments](#)

MarcMan Who took this pic? It's awesome!

LindsayLoo You two are freakin awesome. #bestiegoals #photocred