LEQ – Day 3 – Synthesis Points
Add synthesis.

☑ Each long essay will also evaluate the skill of synthesis, which involves combining the thesis, context, and relevant historical evidence into a new idea.

☑ The simplest way to earn the synthesis point is by adding several statements in the conclusion which connect the topic or issue of the question to related developments in another time period, including the present.
A quick way to remember this would be “similar in kind, but at another time” (SKDT). It kind of rhymes. European colonization, for example, is similar in kind to the Great Migration of the Puritans of the 1630s, Manifest Destiny of the 1840s, and imperialism of the 1890s.

Note: Synthesis refers to events that occurred more than 20 years before or more than 20 years after the main idea of the essay.
Ask yourself, what other period (SKDT) makes sense to compare it to? Think of it in terms of what would make sense on a Venn diagram? Would you compare the American Revolution to the passage of the 15th Amendment? No. The Civil War? Yes. Once you find a good period, make two connections.
✓ You begin the synthesis point of the essay with the following. “The [topic of essay] can be compared to the earlier/later period of [synthesis topic] in two ways…”

✓ Then establish **two** common connections to the two periods.
It could look like this: “The American Revolution can be compared to the later period of Southern Cession prior to the U.S. Civil War in two ways. First, both groups saw themselves fighting for what they perceived as injustices from a tyrannical government. Southerners viewed the injustices of the Northern government in the same light as the Americans viewed the British, so much so, they utilized many of the same points of the Declaration of Independence. Second, both groups invoked John Locke’s social contract theory, which allowed the throwing off any government when it failed to meet the needs of its citizens as a natural right.”
Phrases that are commonly used to show contextualization include: “This fits into…”, “In the same way”, “The theme of…is seen…”, “…is representative of…”, “… exemplifies the larger trend of…”