Synthesis Scaffolding

The following paragraph provides a synthesis of the ideas from two articles: “How English Evolved into a Global Language” and “What Global Language?”

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| **(1)**Although English has expanded globally, the future of English as a global language remains uncertain. **(2**)The need for an international language(s) has existed for a long time, but the impetus for an international language has varied over time. **(3)**The content of the article “How English Evolved into a Global Language” (2010) explains that an international language was first needed in order to share religion or engage in global scholarly conversations; however, now, people use international languages to communicate with each other, to stay up to date on information that can be found on the internet, and to engage with other technology. **(4)** Likewise, Barbara Wallraff (2000), author of “What Global Language?”, concedes that English has expanded for these reasons, but contends that the expansion of English is not “sweeping” (para. 4) and that the ways people use English and its many different forms impact the extent to which Standard American English or British English expands. **(5)** The authors of both of these articles question the longevity and future of English as a global language in large part because of the ways in which English has been and continues to be changed as it becomes more globalized but also because there are other languages, such as Spanish and Chinese, that are spoken by large numbers of people who will likely continue speaking them (“How English Evolved”, 2010; Wallraff, 2000). **(6)** For example, there now exists the concept of “Englishes”, which have also been known as the dialects of creole, pidgin, and patois (“How English Evolved”, 2010, para. 17). **(7)** Additionally, Wallraff (2000) states, “1, 113 million people speak Chinese as their mother tongue, whereas about 372 million speak English” (para. 13). **(8)** Thus, there is no certainty as to the extent English will continue to expand or how English may change from the current iterations of Standard American English and British English. | 1. Topic sentence (YOUR main idea) 2. Explanation of topic sentence 3. Paraphrased main idea of 1st source 4. Comparison of 1st source to 2nd source 5. Combination of the 2 sources’ main points 6. Example from 1st source 7. Example from 2nd source 8. Conclusion sentence that connects back to topic sentence |

Identify the elements of a synthesis paragraph in this example:

Synthesis using “Exposing the Great ‘Poverty Reduction’ Lie” and “We Were Making Headway on Global Poverty. What’s about to Change?”

Although it may seem like the number of people in poverty is decreasing, a closer examination of poverty statistics reveals that this is not the case. We encounter positivity from many organizations claiming to make strides in the fight against poverty, but let’s look at the data from those organizations in more depth. The article “We Were Making Headway on Global Poverty. What’s About to Change?” (2018) by Bill and Melinda Gates states that the number of impoverished people has declined in the past 20 years or so but that that number may reverse trends if we don’t act soon to target poverty in the most impoverished places of the world. In contrast, Jason Hickel, professor at the London School of Economics, in his article, “Exposing the Great ‘Poverty Reduction’ Lie” (2014) makes a strongly supported case for looking more closely at the way the poverty numbers have been presented to us. He explains how the criteria for what is considered a person living in poverty was changed in order to make it look like the number of people in poverty was halved (para. 5-7) and that the threshold for those considered in poverty is also misleading (para. 8-14). The Gates article addresses these claims, but with only a weak claim that “this huge drop in the number of people living on less than $1.90 per day is among the most underappreciated and most important developments of our generation” (para. 3). No details about how that figure was arrived at are provided. Still, the Gates article admits more work needs to be done to eradicate extreme poverty, and in doing so, doesn’t come across as totally victorious. However, one is left wondering if she are being asked to open her wallet to help fight this good fight, especially with a conclusion that reminds the reader that Bill and Melinda Gates founded the Gates Foundation, whose mission is “to help all people lead a healthy, productive life” (para. 16). Hickel argues for a “more accurate [poverty] parameters” (para. 17) in order to fully understand the problem and then attack it more realistically (para. 19). Thus, Hickel provides scrutiny to Gates’ claims to give the reader a fuller picture and to be able to take vital and useful actions.