

## The Columnist Synthesis Essay

**Directions:** Now that you have analyzed five articles from a single columnist, you should be able to ascertain the position he or she might assume on an arguable topic based on the positions s/he took in the columns. Compose an argumentative essay *of your own* while synthesizing material from the columns. Based on the columns, consider:

- the issues the columnist has addressed in his/her columns
- a tangential issue you might expect your columnist to address;
- how the columnist might address your issue;
- your expectations of the columnist's position on the issue;
- how you would respond effectively to your perception of the columnist's position on the issue.

You argue from your perspective. After looking at five columns, you should be able to surmise how your columnist would feel about most argumentative topics. How would s/he feel about yours? You are writing an argumentative paper on a topic you are interested in and employing your columnist to support or refute your position based on how that columnist feels about related topics. The point of the exercise is to reveal how well you can ascertain an author's perspective after having read a series of writings by that author. This "having the conversation" is the key to synthesis.