

Name:  
Date:

**Body paragraphs starting with either assumptions or assertions  
(for synthesizing or analyzing rhetoric)**

Synthesis (when placing sources into conversations)—

**This sample is from pages 294-95 in Matthew Desmond’s *Evicted: Poverty & Profit in the American City* (2016):**

America is supposed to be a place where you can better yourself, your family, and your community. But this is only possible if you have a stable home. When Scott was provided with an affordable apartment through the Guest House’s permanent housing program, he was able to stay off heroin, find meaningful work as a resident manager for homeless people, and begin striving for independence. He remains stably housed and sober. And then there are the Hinkstons. After Malik Jr. was born, Patrice and Doreen finally did move to Brownsville, Tennessee, a town of about 10,000. They found a nice three-bedroom place. Out of the rat hole, Patrice earned her GED, impressing her teacher so much that she was named Adult Learner of the Year, Patrice went on to enroll in a local community college, where she took online classes in computers and criminal justice, hoping to one day become a parole officer. She liked to half joke, “I got a lot of friends who are criminal who are going to need my help!”

The persistence and brutality of American poverty can be disheartening, leaving us cynical about solutions. But as Scott and Patrice will tell you, a good home can serve as the sturdiest of footholds. When people have a place to live, they become better parents, workers, and citizens.

What’s the assumption? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What’s the assertion? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Evidence	Backing

What’s the concluding sentence(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date:

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Evidence	Backing

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