

Sample Synthesis Graphic Organizer

A. Individual Big Takeaways in Response to the Prompt

<p>Group Member: Layla</p> <p>Text: "Hair" by Elizabeth Acevedo</p> <p>Character/People: speaker of the poem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker's family and culture define the speaker by her hair, using marginalizing language, such as "fix" or "straighten" when referring to the speaker's hair• Speaker, however, embraces her hair as a "curtain of curls" and "beautiful"	<p>Group Member: Johnny</p> <p>Text: "Borders" by Thomas King</p> <p>Character/People: the mother</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker has intense pride in her nationality, unwaveringly declaring she is "Blackfoot"• Border control agents insist (bureaucratic rules) that the only acceptable language is "American" or "Canadian"	<p>Group Member: Lexie</p> <p>Text: "Our fight for disability rights –and why we're not done yet"</p> <p>Character/People: Judy Heumann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• People fear Heumann because of her wheelchair, and bureaucratic rules limit her choices, but supported by her family• Heumann rejects that "disabled" defines her• Fights for equality for all
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B. Patterns

What ideas about language appear in the texts?

- People often define others by how the other person physically looks.
- Bureaucratic rules and language can limit people.

What ideas about identity appear in the texts?

- People use marginalizing language when describing others.
- People do not use marginalizing language to describe themselves.

What larger ideas or patterns about the relationship between language and identity do the texts reveal?

- People can push against marginalizing language themselves.
- Family members can support one another during marginalization.
- Marginalizing bureaucratic rules can be fought.



C. Thesis

What pattern or idea do we most want to write about and discuss in our podcast episode?

- People can push back against marginalizing language.
- People can push back against bureaucratic rules.

Does the pattern appear in all three texts?

- YES: Marginalizing language appears in all three texts, so this is a possibility.
- NO: Bureaucratic rules only appear in "Borders" and Judy Heumann's TED Talk.

Is there enough evidence from all three texts to support this pattern?

Yes, we all wrote down evidence from the texts of marginalizing language and people pushing back against this language on our note-taker.

Thesis:

Ultimately, Unit 1 texts reveal how rejecting marginalizing language can empower people to reclaim control over their identities through Acevado's "Hair," in which she proudly wears her natural hair, King's "Borders," in which the mother stands firm in her nationality, and Heumann's TED Talk, in which she fights for equality.