

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

### Scale: 2

**Comment:** This response receives a "2" as language errors are recurring, distracting, and impede meaning. There is an attempt at synthesis and to address the topic, but the student's inadequate language skills does not allow the paper to pass.

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Hap who is a art lover, the character in the story "The Soul of Capitalism" by Robert Collins will highly respond to Warhol's art as described in "When Canada Met Andy" by Nancy Tousley.

First, when Hap sees the box sculptures and Tin cans, he would be likely be surprise. He would not tell from the fake ones to the "real thing" and thinks that the art is a good idea, because "art [is] if he [can] tell what it is". Art to Hap is something he knows what it is and giving him a surprise, if he does not know what it is the art, then to him it's not art.

Secondly, Hap would be confused by the sculpture, thinking why the artist made such a thing. Even though Hap is not into "modern art" he would not get the meaning of the sculpture and would no "classify" them as art. Hap knows what it is, but does not know the meaning behind it, which can lead to confusion.

Finally Hap can be happy for the art of Warhols' work and also can be influence by modern art. He would realize for the people who buys his art work for millions of dollars, realize "if you were like the bank and had no soul at all" then it is nothing to them but a piece of art. Hap is a character, who look into the art work and judges upon it, proven that he is a surprise, confuse and a happy character.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

### Scale: 2

**Comment:** This paper is a '2'. There is a significant misreading in this response; while the student attempts to address the topic (as evidenced in the introductory paragraph), the misunderstanding of Warhol's work (as evidenced in the second paragraph) prevents the student from scoring more than a '2'. Errors are evident throughout the paper.

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Although Hap is a dairy farmer, he is also a lover of art. He is not very interesting in the modern art. Hap is more interesting in the art of landscapes and seascapes as mention in the paragraph nineteen. "Hap liked the landscapes and seascapes and the portraits and battle scenes."

Furthermore, in the article, "When Canada Met Andy" the art is shown on Tomato Juice boxes and Tomato Soup Cans. This art is related with today's capitalism. Hap says that modern companies have modern artists to make art on different products to attract the customers. Hap also says that modern art is also very costly and its price is in millions. It is only the part of art galleries.

Another way of Hap's thinking about Warhol's art is that it only become the part of galleries. Warhol's art is liked by rich people and Canadian government.

In summary, according to Hap, Warhol's art is more commercial. There are not any natural scenes in his art.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

### Scale: 2

**Comment:** While there is an attempt at addressing the question and both pieces, this response is compromised by a specific misunderstanding of how Hap would respond to Warhol's art (paragraph 2). A serious lack of development further weakens the discussion as there is actually very little content and support for ideas.

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Hap is a dairyman-farmer. He is also an art lover of the traditional kind. His favorite type of art – the type he can tell what is is. Living on a farm, Hap tends to collect a lot of items he would call junk. Although to an artist it would be called ‘abstract.’

Considering Hap enjoys art that a person could tell what it is, Hap would most likely enjoy Andy Warhol's art. When Hap and Axel meet again at an art Gallery, Axel explains to him that his “Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire” is now being sold for \$15,000 as “The Soul of Capitalism.” Hap explains that his price range is more forty dollars, therefore Hap would most likely enjoy Warluf's art because when it first came to Canada it was really cheap.

Hap, the simple dairy farmer would most likely like Andy Warluf's art because you can tell what it is, it was inexpensive when it first came to Canada and because he is a traditional art lover.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 3

**Comment:** This barely adequate response is accurate but underdeveloped. It receives a score of "3." Synthesis is evident but there is a significant lack of support from each text. With further development and greater discussion of the texts, this paper would certainly receive a higher mark.

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In "The Soul of Capitalism," Hap reveals his artistic philosophy being that "it's not art if he can't tell what it is." Although Warhol dove head first into his painting, practically revolutionizing the world of art, his art was recognizable to the untrained eye, as he painted physical objects and portraits primarily. That alone might suggest Hap appreciating Warhol's art. Yet, when you delve but a tad deeper into Hap's psychology, you begin to understand that he is very traditional, and perhaps uneducated. I believe that although Warhol's art is easily recognizable, Hap simply would not be able to understand the importance of it. Hap might even be disgusted that an artist is even making a living selling paintings of soup cans, and deam the art distasteful. That of course would be a direct contradiction of what his philosophy of art is.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 3

**Comment:** This is a minimally acceptable response. While the response accurately depicts what Hap's probable response to Warhol's art may be and the reasoning why, the discussion is compromised by distracting errors in written expression. There is sense of purpose and an attempt at synthesis even though the discussion is underdeveloped.

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TradITIONAL Art is valuable and memorable art. According to Hap there is no potential in modern art. Hap likes tradITIONAL art that has some meaning to it. He doesn't admire the modern art.

Warhol was trying to bring something modern to the society. He wanted the Canadians to buy his new products. He brought that modern thing to tradITIONAL stuff. He wanted people to accept it, to try it. It worked in America, but not lot of people enjoyed it in Canada.

If Hap was to look at Warhol's work he wouldn't appreciate it as well. Because he is more of a tradITIONAL person. He doesn't really know much about the modern art. He would think of it as unprofessional work. Modern art is just a way to make money. It is not an art that comes from the bottom of your heart.

Finally he would hate it. He wouldn't admire it at all.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 3

**Comment:** This paper is a '3'. This paper attempts some synthesis, but the response is underdeveloped. In the third paragraph, only one sentence addresses the topic. The language is simple; errors are present. The paper is barely adequate.

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Some people like things clear and simple, whereas others prefer things to be a bit more complex. Abstract art is definitely not somethign that everyone can appreciate. If Hap were to see Warhol's art he porbably would not be able to understand or enjoy it.

When one looks at Andy Warhol's art at first all one sees is just a simple picture of a celebrity or a can of soup. If Hap, the dairy farmer in "The Soul of Capitalism" saw Andy Warhol's 'Campbell's Soup 1: Tomato' he would surely think that he could get the same picture in a magazine ad, clip it out and frame it and it would be no different. Hap is a simple dairy farmer who does enjoy art, he prefers landscapes and does not understand abstract art.

Hap goes to the art gallery with his friends it is a three-story building. The first floor has paintings that he can really enjoy to look at. The second floor is not his favorite but he can still appreciate the art. The third floor is his least favorite. It is all abstract art in which he does not enjoy or understand it. If Warhol's painting were in the museum, they would surely be put in the third floor, and Hap would not understand them.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 4

**Comment:** This "4" paper is clearly adequate but literal. Synthesis is evident but analysis is straightforward and lacks subtlety. At times Hap's likely response is overstated as the student writes Hap "shows signs of disgust" to some modern art. However, the response is clearly focused on the task.

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Artwork can be seen differently through the eyes of different people. In "The Soul of Capitalism", Hap, the dairy farmer responds negatively towards modern art. He cannot view modern and abstract art the same way as traditional art and does not think modern art is worth anything. To Hap, something is not art unless he is able to tell what it is supposed to be.

Hap and his wife Edna, are both art lovers but in a traditional sense. Warhol is a pop art and modern art artist, meaning his Campbell's soup can painting is very likely seen as nothing more than just a picture of a can to Hap. Hap is not able to view different forms of art as art because he cannot relate what he is not interested in, to be art. He shows signs of disgust towards any type of art that does not display a straight-forward or blunt meaning. Hap will not consider the box sculptures as art either, the same way Charles Comfort thinks and he would not be willing to pay much money for it as well.

Hap does not understand how anyone is willing to pay a large sum of money for modern art, such as Warhol's art of Axel's barbed wire. In Hap's mind, he will be thinking that those damned cans would be worth no more than forty dollars or less. The fact that he is not willing to pay much money for that type of art, confuse him about why other people, in their right minds would pay that much for it.

Hap will never learn to appreciate modern art and compared to traditional art, he sees them as worthless. He will never love or cherish artworks, such as Warhol's, because Hap does not see them as more than just objects.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 4

**Comment:** This paper is a '4'. This is a clearly organized response. It achieves the task of synthesis by directly answering the question. Each of the texts is discussed in each body paragraph. The language is colloquial and straightforward. Writing errors are present but do not distract.

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There are variety of forms of art, from traditional art to modern art. Each individual perceives art in different ways. Some people, like Hap in "The Soul of Capitalism," are fans of traditional art. Others, like Warhol, enjoys modern art. Hap would find Warhol's art bizarre and worth nothing.

Hap would perceive Warhol's art work weird. Warhol's art work is mainly based on commercial graphics and portraits, which are considered modern art. However, Hap is apathetic towards modern art; he does not see it as art. Hap is unable to understand Axel's art work, which is similar to Warhol's. Hap "[doesn't] 'get' "The Soul of Capitalism"" (33), Axel's art work. Moreover, when Hap encounters abstract art, he "[describes it] as bizzare" (21). Thus, Hap would find Warhol's art strange.

Hap would think of Warhol's work to be worth nothing. Hap would be unable to imagine people paying money to buy Warhol's work for millions of dollars. Hap is "increasingly less appreciative" (20) towards modern art compared to paintings of landscapes. Hap would respond in a similar way as Charles Comfort, who said that "I don't classify these processed cartons and tin cans as sculpture" (6). Thus, Hap would not appreciate Warhol's art.

Hap would find Warhol's art bizarre because Hap and Warhol have very different taste of art. Hap has no interest in modern art and finds it weird. Also, he is less appreciative towards it than traditional art. Thus, Hap would perceive Warhol's art odd and not worthy.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 4

**Comment:** This is a literal, superficial response. This paper relies heavily on paraphrasing and uses many quotations. The discussion of both pieces is accurate, however, and the student has addressed the question and both texts. Organization and language are straightforward.

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In the two texts, “The Soul of Capitalism” and “When Canada Met Andy,” the main idea is the viewpoint regarding modern art can sometimes be tough to interpret. In “The soul of capitalism”, Hap has a hard time understanding the art that Axel has made, while in “When Canada Met Andy” the society doesn’t understand the art made by Andy Warhol. If Hap sees the art made by Andy Warhol, he would not grasp the meaning either.

In “The Soul of Capitalism”, Hap is mystified with abstract art. He can’t appreciate it because he found it “too abstract and weird” (line 22). When Hap sees Axel’s masterpiece, he sees it as “That Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire” (line 31). He tried to “[examine] it from all angles but, for the life of him, couldn’t find any perspective that made it look like anything else but That Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire” (lines 34 to 36). Hap didn’t know much about modern art. He is so used to “the landscapes and seascapes, and the portraits and battle scenes” (line 20). He likes the traditional art. If he sees the art of Andy Warhol, he wouldn’t appreciate them either. Warhol’s sculptures are abstract too. He has a Campbell soup box unfinished and he calls it his box sculptures. If Hap sees them, he will most likely see it as just processed cartons and tin cans. Hap is like Charles Comfort in “When Canada Met Andy”. Both of them can’t see the meaning behind abstract art.

In conclusion, Hap will not appreciate Warhol’s art as described in “When Canada Met Andy.” Based on the story, Hap is not fond of abstract art because he can’t understand it.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

### Scale: 5

**Comment:** This upper level response demonstrates a clear understanding of task and content. Synthesis is apparent throughout the response and the student integrates appropriate quotations well. This response utilizes good vocabulary and while the organization and writing are strong, it lacks the strength of a "6."

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From Nancy Tousley's "When Canada Met Andy" and Robert Collins' "The Soul of Capitalism", readers are able to understand that modern art can be intriguing at times as it invokes different reactions from different audiences. And these various attitudes suggest modern art can indeed be perplexing, controversial, but memorable.

Modern art can be perplexing to audiences, and Hap, the dairy farmer, is obviously one of these befuddled viewers. As suggested in the second essay, Hap cannot help but regard "The Soul of Capitalism" as nothing else but "That Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire". From his above reaction, we can quickly conclude he lacks the unique understanding of the modern art. He is unable to peek underneath the surface to dig out the hidden truth as he can only see what is presented to him in the most simplistic way. Thus, after examining his reaction to the wired ball, we find it easy to suggest that Hap will most likely react to Warhol's art the same way Mr. Comfort does: "I don't classify... as sculpture" (Nancy Tousley; 6). Indeed, Modern art is perplexing whereas not everyone has the knack of handling it.

Moreover, modern art can be controversial at the same time. According to Hap, he sees not the metaphor "The Soul of Capitalism" is trying to convey because, in his own heart, he may find himself a distinctively different viewpoint. The bank officers, obviously, are not reading such piece of art as "the blood of the working class" (Collins; 31) or they won't pay \$15,000 for a taunt to themselves. From these tips, we may conclude Hap will generate his own, unique understanding to Warhol's modern art.

Finally, modern art is indeed memorable. From the experience in "When Canada Met Andy", we are able to realize that the introduction to modern art requires time. From Warhol's initial "big nobody in Canada" to his final success: "Small... soup can for \$11.8 million", we see how dramatic such alternation can be 13; Figure 4 And, at the same time, such "mental leap" is proven to be the most defiant kind (14). From these indications of change, we can find ourselves easy to suggest that Mr. Hap is likely to remember Warhol's art for a long period of time, and, after enough passage of time. Hap will gradually learn to appreciate such art form.

All in all, modern art can be hard and perplexing to understand, and Mr. Hap will certainly not pick up such skill in short period of time. It is however not to be laughed at if he reacts the same way Mr. Comfort does because, I believe, after certain amount of time, Mr. Hap will then realizes how to appreciate such intriguing art form.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

### Scale: 5

**Comment:** This proficient response demonstrates a clear understanding of the texts and Hap's character. There is good support provided in the second paragraph for the student's interpretation of Hap and how he would respond to Warhol's art. The writing is well-organized but does not possess the sophistication expected of a "6" paper.

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The "Soul of Capitalism" by Robert Collins and "When Canada met Andy" by Nancy Tousley are both texts that revolve around modern art. Art is very abstract and is meant to be interpreted. Depending on the audience and their background and individual characteristics, a single piece of art can have numerous responses. In the "Soul of Capitalism" Hap, a farmer, is very straightforward and sees things very practically. This may be because of his background, but when he wanders an exhibit filled with abstract pieces of modern art he is unable to appreciate their value; as evidence in the last line of paragraph 20, "the exhibits became increasingly abstract and all those grew less appreciative."

In the story an artist named Axel discovers a ball of barbed wire, which becomes the key component of a \$15,000 modern art masterpiece. In the eyes of Hap this piece of art is nothing more than ball of barbed wire he wants to rid himself of. Despite knowing the meaning of the piece and what it symbolizes, due to a direct explanation from the artist, he is still unable to see its value and interpret the sculpture in that respect. This is evidenced by paragraph 33. "He examined it [the sculpture] from all angles but for the life of him, couldn't find any perspective that made it look like anything else but That Damned Ball of Burned Wire. It occurred to Hap he didn't know much about modern art... he couldn't imagine what the bank saw that merited an expenditure of \$15,000.

In "When Canada met Andy" the artist created all his pieces with respect to the concepts of modern art. All these pieces imitated life and the conventional attitudes of the modern world. As paragraph one states, "Andy Warhol had his first solo show in Canada in 1965. Nobody showed up at the opening. He didn't sell a thing." His cold reception is likely related to the public unfamiliarity of the concepts of modern art. Everyday working class citizens "couldn't tell a Warhol bow sculpture from the real thing, a dutiable commercial product." (paragraph 5); and critics "don't classify these processed cartons and tin cans as sculptue," (paragraph 6)

If Hap were to gaze upon the sculptures present in "When Canada Met Andy" he would most likely be very unimpressed. He wouldn't be able to see the abstract elements of the work and would never interpret the sculptures in any other way than what they appear to be visually. Most likely he would be mystified by how others can interpret these sculptures as art. There is even a possibility that he might mistake a warhol box sculpture as a real thing, much like the customs agents in "When Canada met Andy."

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 5

**Comment:** This paper is a 5. This is an upper level response that shows a thoughtful understanding of the text and task. While its lapses into some summary prevent it from being awarded a '6', it does complement the summary with analysis. Both works are discussed in each of the body paragraphs. Quotes are used from each of the texts effectively. Some writing errors in this first draft '5' exist.

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Art may be defined as a piece of work that is made from one's unique ideas and lasts forever. Over the years, different categories of art have been presented. There is traditional art, which is more of paintings; and modern art, which is more abstract and unique. In the short story by Robert Collins, "The Soul of Capitalism," Hap, a farmer, who also is a traditional art lover sells a piece of barbed wire to a young man, who later makes a piece of art out of it and sells it for \$15000. In the second passage, an article by Nancy Tousley, "When Canada Met Andy," the art by Andy Warhol is described. Hap, the dairy farmer in "The Soul of Capitalism" would respond to Warhol's art in an unappreciable way.

In "The Soul of Capitalism" it is clearly presented that Hap does not favour the modern artwork. During the story, while in the city, Hap and the other farmers visit a City Art Gallery to "soak up a little bit of that big city culture." (18) The first floor, filled with traditional paintings like that of landscapes, pleased Hap, who admires traditional art. As they moved along to the second floor and walked through the exhibits, the art grew in their abstractness. Hap, being a strict traditional art person, his appreciation toward the art decreased, as the abstractness increased. Pictures that are abstract are not easily identified, and that is why Hap did not favour them. By the time they got on the third floor, the farmers described that it can "only be described as bizarre" (21) When they encounter Axel, who Hap has sold the barbed wire to, and hears that the art made with the wire sold at \$15000, Hap is shocked and surprised, and stood there with a "gazed-openmouth" at the art. He underestimated the value of the wire, but even if for the others it may be art worth \$15000, he states that "Forty dollars is [his] price range." (30) While Hap's opinion on modern art is negative and thinks there is no value to it, Andy Warhol's abstract work has made him very rich. If Hap were to know about Warhol, he would not believe how much people pay to get Warhol's artworks.

In the article "When Canada Met Andy," Andy Warhol's experience in Canada with his artwork is told. He experienced little in Canada, reasons being that nobody bought or even showed up at the opening of his first solo show. He even got harsh comments from painter Charles Comfort saying "He [does not] classify these processed cartons and tin cans as sculpture." (Tousley 6) Warhol indeed had troubles selling in Canada, but in other places such as New York, he was "one of the top commercial artists." (12) Likewise to Comfort's opinion, Hap would not be pleased with the box sculptures of a commercial product. He would not see the value in the art by Warhol, just like he did not see the value of Axel's art, a barbed wire that was fired and abandoned, uselessly.

In conclusion, Hap's response to Andy Warhol's artwork would not be a good one. He would not see the value in the box sculptures, exactly like a clone of the real ones. Similar to how he could not believe that the barbed wire he owned sold at \$15000, he would not

believe that a box sculpture of “Small Torn Campbell’s Soup Can” auctioned for \$11.8 million. For him, tradition is the way to go, with pictures of landscapes, beautiful and appreciable.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 6

**Comment:** An insightful discussion of modern art. The paper demonstrates a strong understanding of both pieces and an interesting/accurate hypothesis of what Hap thinks of modern art. Synthesis is sustained throughout the response and leads to a more sophisticated analysis. While this is an upper level response, this is a first draft and is not error-free.

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In both Nacy Tousley's "When Canada Met Andy" and Robert Collins' "Soul of Capitalism" the style of contemporary art is shown to be misunderstood. Collins' character, Hap, is shown to be of the opinion "it's not art if he can't tell what it is". This reflects upon the integral question in dealing with art – that is, is art the interpretation or imitation of reality?

At first in Tousley's "When Canada Met Any", the reader gets the sense that Andy Warhol's art seems to be nothing more than the imitation of everyday, mundane goods – a can of Tomato Soup from Campbell's, a box of peach halves. While it is likely that Collins' character, Hap, would have recognized the items, it is perhaps unlikely that he would consider them to be art. The walls of his home are said to "host several paintings and prints, mostly landscapes" – "traditional" art. Hap finds art in the "detailed" drawings, "landscapes and seascapes,... portraits and battle scenes."

When closer examining Warhol's art, you can see interpretation over imitation – the Marilyns for example. Certainly not a 'traditional' portrait, but rather, an interpretation of Marilyn Monroe. You begin to wonder, why her? Why this line, or this spot to be shaded. Warhol's art is thought-provoking, contemporary, and wholly unexpected. Hap's understanding of this may be similar to his reaction to "The Soul of Capitalism". Hap cannot see past "That Damned Ball of Burned Barbed Wire". Perhaps the appreciation of art depends on what you know. Hap is aquainted with the land as a farmer, and therefore enjoys landscapes. "Urbanites" are more accustomed to celebrities, canned and packaged foods, as seen in Warhol's works.

Warhol's art is about perspective, and changed perspectives. How does dinner look like after being silk-screened? – This may be reflective of what ran through his mind. Interestingly enough, Tousley's article shows us how poorly Canadians reacted initially to this change in perspective. Not surprising, really, as few people enjoy the reversal of their expectations. Hal demonstrates this perfectly when looking at "The Soul of Capitalism." "He [examines] if from all angles but... [can't] find any perspective that made it look like anything else". With art, familiarity turns out to be a barrier.

Hap's character allows us to understand that contemporary art is interpretation over imitation. While all he sees is what is on the canvas, we know that his own biases will not allow him to see anything else. Both Tousley's "When Canada Met Andy" and Collins' "The Soul of Capitalism" lead us to the understanding that all contemporary art is a reversal of expectation, whether it be through subject matter, perspective, or even colour.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 6

**Comment:** This paper is a 6. This insightful and engaging discussion is an excellent example of synthesis. The student is able to refer to each work in each of the body paragraphs in a way that directly answers the question. The thematic opening and conclusion sentences are effective. It is important to note that, as this is a first draft, some minor errors exist.

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The qualifications for art are very subjective. What one individual may call beautiful or a profound critique on modern society another may completely disregard. Andy Warhol, who has come to be considered “as one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s major artistic innovators” (8-7), was not initially received with as much respect and admiration. The general opinion initially given to Warhol’s art is likely similar to the opinion Hap, the dairy farmer in “The soul of Capitalism,” would have held.

Although Hap is described as an “art lover” (1), his appreciation for art tends towards the “traditional kind” (1). Warhol’s art is far from being considered traditional. As a pioneer of the pop art movement his work broke many conventions and would have been a bold contrast to the “host [of] several paintings and prints,” (2) most of which were landscapes, that Hap and his wife Edna displayed. “As far as [Hap] is concerned, it’s not art if he can’t tell what it is.” This approach to art is very similar to the approach taken by Canadian customs towards Warhol’s art. The men at customs were unable to tell a “Warhol box sculpture from the real thing, a [...] commercial product” (5). The initial opinion of Warhol’s work held by Charles Comfort, the director of the National Gallery of Canada, was that he didn’t classify the “processed cartons and tin cans as sculpture” (6). It is likely Hap would have held the same opinion. His response to the government’s \$2 million purchase of a painted red stripe was one of astonishment. His ability to “tell what it was” (2) still caused him to call “it something other than art” (2).

As the world’s stance on Warhol’s art changed though it is possible so too would Hap’s. Warhol is now considered a “major artistic innovator [ ] and [one of the] most influential artists” (8). The successor to Comfort purchased “eight of Warhol’s Brillo Box sculptures” (8). Although initially unsellable, “nearly four-and-a-half decades later, the same canvases are worth millions” (Figure 4). Hap’s opinion of Warhol’s work might be elevated over time. Although he might have initially “gazed open-mouthed” (30) as Warhol’s work became mainstream and in-depth analysis were presented his opinion might have changed. His reaction to Axel’s sculpture is bewilderment but he does resolve that he doesn’t “really know much about modern art” (32).

Although the initial opinion given to Warhol’s work is likely similar to the opinion Hap, the dairy farmer in “The Soul of Capitalism,” would have held it is possible that as Warhol’s work moved out of the fringe and modern art labels Hap’s position might have softened. Warhol has come to be considered one of the most important and influential figures in art. The qualifications for art are very subjective. What one may consider beautiful or significant another may disregard. As history has shown though, opinions change.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 6

**Comment:** This superior paper receives a "6." The response is sophisticated in both content and style. The response effectively connects Hap's response to Axel's modern "art" with Hap's likely response to the modern art of Andy Warhol. This sophisticated synthesis links Hap's response to the belief of most Canadians in the 1960s and presents a thorough analysis of Hap's character and his likely response to Warhol's art.

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In both "The Soul of Capitalism" by Robert Collins and "When Canada Met Andy" by Nancy Tousley, a creative artist breaks through the conventional beliefs of what is considered art and emerges with something new and unique. Axel, the young man who comes to sketch old farming equipment at Hap's farm, is focused on capturing the essence of age and dirt, eventually using an old, burned ball of barbed wire as his major piece in an art exhibit. Andy Warhol is also a young artist going against the common views of what is art by creating exact replicas of common American consumer products. Hap's response to Axel's "art" and his likely reaction to Warhol's prized pieces illustrate the idea that creating something new and unconventional is risky and daring yet it can yield outstanding results.

Considering himself quite the art appreciator, Hap finally realizes that he is actually in the dark when it comes to modern pieces. His home's walls "host several paintings and prints"(2) but he acknowledges his belief that "it's not art if he can't tell what it is" (1). This exposing factor contradicts the intentions of every modern artist and immediately presents a conflict between Hap and the views of many. When Hap goes to a big-city art exhibit, he is deeply perplexed by the appreciation and praise received by creators of such pieces as the shoe collection. Axel's use of Hap's refuse to create a piece that sold for \$15000 is even more thoroughly confusing and concerning to the older man. If Hap were to encounter Andy Warhol's art, he would surely feel the same way as he did towards Axel's. He would not see Warhol's "processed cartons and tin cans as sculpture" (6), let alone groundbreaking art pieces. Along with most Canadians in the 1960's, Hap would share the belief that Warhol's pieces were nothing more than precise portrayals of things that had already been created, and therefore useless and boring. Although Hap cannot understand the complexity of Axel's final work or the intricacies of Warhol's deeper meaning, there are some that take the time and are able to comprehend and appreciate such pieces.

Hap represents an old and conservative way of thinking when it comes to art. He feels he must know what he is looking at for it to be considered as artwork. Him and his wife Edna "are art lovers, in a traditional kind of way" (1), appreciating the brush work and skill of those that can create an accurate and esthetically pleasing portrayal of something that already exists in nature. Axel's "Soul of Capitalism" is neither literally representational nor esthetically pleasing and leaves Hap dumfounded amongst all the fans in the big-city art gallery. In the same way, Warhol's art would be seriously unappreciated by Hap's character. Whether it was his exact replicas of common goods, or warped portraits of famous figures, Hap would not see this the way the world did by 2006. Although completely lost on Hap, the late Warhol's pieces were selling famously and in incomprehensible sums. The views of the new and open-minded thinkers overthrew the old and traditional ones. The belief that there is more to art than immediately meets the eye is what caused Axel's piece to sell for \$15000

and Warhol's "Liz", "a silkscreen portrait of Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor [to sell] for a whopping \$23.5 million" (figure 4). Canada in the 1960's represented Hap and all other old time conventional art appreciators. Like Canada in the 1960's, Hap would not have been able to appreciate Warhol's daring art had he encountered it. Luckily, there are those that can find meaning and beauty in controversial pieces, making Axel and Warhol's artistic risks worthwhile.

In both "The Soul of Capitalism" and "When Canada Met Andy", an artist defies the common beliefs of what is and is not art through original pieces. The response of Hap's character to Axel's piece and his expected reacation to Warhol's art exposes the concept that to create something that is against the mold is a risk that is worth taking, potentially providing amazing results.

## English 12: Synthesis of Text

Scale: 0

**Comment:** This response receives a "0". It is an exclusively narrative response which displays a complete misunderstanding of the task.

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### When Hap Meets Andy

"This surely is an interestin' display of lunch goods," Hap carelessly mutters as he surveys the "art" which only find a in his mind, on the kitchen table.

"Lunch goods indeed," exclaims Warhol who stands beside him. "This is one of my greatest master pieces! Look at the lines, the way in which the shadows fall and create depth. " Warhol's tone portrays the passion with which he appreciates the abstract. Hap still sees a pile of soup cans and his stomach rumbles as he dreams of his lunch.

The tour moves on to another room where more displays of soup boxes and shoe adds stand like a haphazard mercantile. Hap squints and tilts his head to the side attempting to see the beauty in the blochy lines painted across a large soup box. "Did the man give this one to his two year old niece to decorate?" he whispers to the woman next to him. For his comment he earns a scathing frown and Warhol rolls his eyes. What does a silly farmer know anyway?

The next gallery holds a serious of portraits hung against the blank white walls. Warhol notices the wrinkled expression on Hap's face as he slowly inches away from the tour and slips over to his least favourite painting, his self portrait. Sliding away from the group Warhol moves in Hap's direction just to keep an eye on the troublemaker. He flinches when he sees the scrutiny with which Hap is eying the self portrait.

"Not ,my best work," Warhol mumbles quietly over Hap's shoulder. Hap straitens up and turns towards the painter.

"Why don't you like this one?" He queries cautiously. Well I painted that one before I had my nose job. I was always embarrassed about my odd looking nose. Hap grunts oddly as his gaze sweeps the gallery. "Any man who can release stacks of soup cans and yellow paintin's of people and get all of the attention that you have had, shouldn't be worried about their nose. Don't you see Warhol, people will take whatever you present to them proudly. That includes your nose." Wharhol smiled and considered what he has just been told. Perhaps he was a work of art as well.