**Example Synthesis**

**Question:** Which character, Hop-Frog or Judson Webb, is more ruthless?

**Hook**: Many people wish they could take the law in their own hands. But, due to strong morals and societal pressure, most people do not act on these thoughts.

**Topic Sentence**: The same cannot be said for Judson Webb of William de Mille’s short story “Ruthless” and Hop-Frog of Edgar Allan Poe’s short story “Hop-Frog”--both Judson and Hop-Frog are ruthless when they take matters into their own hands and seek revenge.

**ACE # 1:**

**Point of Comparison**: Both Judson and Hop-Frog aim to punish their victims.

**Assertion # A:**  Judson Webb is a malicious and vengeful man who hopes to catch the thief who stole his liquor by poisoning the remaining bourbon with rat poison.

**Citation # A:** He exclaims cruelly, “No one is going to get hurt who hasn’t got it coming to him (de Mille 2).

**Explanation # A**: Judson epitomizes ruthlessness because he does not care who gets hurt by his devious plan.

**Assertion # B**: Similarly, Hop-Frog holds a grudge against his captor, the king, and when opportunity strikes he wastes no time in making a fool of the king by burning him in front of his subjects.

**Citation # B:** After he lights the king on fire Hop-Frog ruthlessly shouts, “This is my last jest (Poe, 6) as he disappears into the night.

**Explanation #B:** Hop-Frog revels and gloats with pride when the deed is done. He takes satisfaction knowing that he has tricked the king and his council--he was ruthless in his cunning ways.

**Concluding Sentence of ACE:** Although each story has a decisive act of revenge, Hop-Frog is truly ruthless because he pretends to act in good faith.

**Concluding Sentence**: Therefore, while Judson Webb dies as result of his own plan, Hop-Frog gets away with murder and successfully takes the law into his own hands.

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