**Example Synthesis**

**Prompt:** Explain to what extent family, friends, and community do or do not help Jordin Tooto in “Skating Across Cultural Gap” and Teresa from “The Kayak” to overcome challenges and achieve their goals. In writing your explanation, you must discuss both passages

**Intro**

**Hook:** Believing in one’s ability is important, but having the support of one’s family, friends, and community can motivate one to achieve anything. A support network is often the vital component in a success story.

**Topic Sentence:** Both Jordan from “Skating Across Culture Gaps” by Kevin Allen and Teresa from “The Kayak” by Debbie Spring would agree as they both experience the help of their family, friends, and community in overcoming challenges and achieving their dreams.

**Thesis (your argument):** However, Jordin experiences greater support than Teresa.

**Body Paragraph 1**

**Body Paragraph 1**

**Topic Sentence (first point of comparison):** Both Jordan and Teresa have physical challenges that inhibit their goals, but with the help of their family, friends, and community they are able to overcome these challenges and find success.

**Body Para 1**

**Assertion A (first text – point 1):** Jordin is a commanding skater and hockey player, but he does not have access to traditional training methods in his native territory of Nunavut. Instead he relies on the natural elements available to him and the help of his family and community to train effectively.

**Citation (quoted proof):** For instance, he “climbs the rocky incline” of Hudson Bay to strengthen his legs and he carries his “102-pound cousin Kelli” to work on his upper body (para 2). In addition, he eats “sun-dried arctic char” post workout to get his necessary protein fix (para 4).

**Explanation (tie the importance of your proof back into your thesis):** Without his own innovation and the support of his community, Jordin would not be able to train effectively. His community provides him with the necessary supplies to train as well as the motivational support to keep his goal of playing in the NHL a reality.

**Transitional word or phrase**: Similarly,

**Assertion B (second text – point 1):** Teresa is a powerful paddler, but cannot walk on her own; when not on the water she is confined to a wheelchair. Her parents provide the physical support that she needs to move from her chair to her kayak so that she can obtain her goal of independence.

**Citation (quoted proof**): For example, as Teresa returns to shore, her father “lifts [her]” out of the kayak and a “blanket is wrapped around [her] shivering shoulders” (para 47).

**Explanation (tie the importance of you proof back into your thesis**: Without the support of her parents, Teresa would be unable to kayak which is the place where she feels “safe and secure” and that she “can do anything” (para 1). Her parents realize how important paddling is to Teresa obtaining independence and naturally provide the necessary physical support to get from place to place.

**Concluding Sentence (of entire paragraph):** Both Jordin and Teresa benefit from having a family and a community who will support them in their endeavors regardless of the situation. Striving to make their goal a reality, both Jordin and Teresa demonstrate it takes more than one person to obtain success.

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**Body Para 2**

**Topic**: Emotional challenges and support provided

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**Body Para 3**

**Topic:** Explaining how Jordin receives more support than Teresa; discussing Teresa’s abandonment issue with friends and smothering issue with her parents

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**Concl.**

**Transitional word or phrase (that shows it is the conclusion)**: In conclusion,

**Restate thesis (in different words):** although both Jordin and Teresa receive support from family, friends and community, Jordin’s support is more all-encompassing.

**Sum up the points mentioned in your essay:** Jordin’s family, friends and community are able to provide both physical and emotional support to help Jordin maintain his level of fitness and emotional resolve to play in the NHL, while Teresa’s family and friends attempt to provide both physical and emotional support to help her gain some independence, but are not always successful.

**Final summarizing statement (sums up the whole essay):** Ultimately, it is clear that regardless of how much support is available the support must be wanted. In the case of Teresa, she wants to be independent so badly that she sometimes pushes away those willing to help. In contrast, Jordin accepts all who are eager to help and consequently is able to overcome his homesickness and remain a part of “aboriginal history” (para 6).