

Synthesizing means to “combine (two or more things) into a coherent whole.” Professors will often ask you to find more than one source to elaborate on the points in your paper. How do you make two different sources written by two different authors for two different purposes come together into a coherent whole? The worksheet below will help you find connections between your sources so that you can craft a strong synthesis.

<p><b>Step 1:</b> Take out what you consider to be one of your central sources. Locate and then copy or paraphrase 1-2 passages/examples that resonate most with your own ideas on the topic. Mention also the source author and page number.</p>	<p><b>Step 2:</b> Referring now to a different source, locate a passage/example that connects in some specific way to the passage(s) or example(s) you located. Copy/paraphrase the passage here. Mention also the source author and page number.</p>



**Step 3:** Freewrite what connections you're seeing across these texts. What is the relationship between them? Does the passage from the second source *support* (concur, exemplify), *extend* (add to), *complicate* (agree but offers another perspective), and/or *challenge* (contest or disagree with) the passage from the first source? How so?

**Step 4:** Freewrite what these two examples/passages could allow you to illustrate to readers of your essay. Get very specific and elaborate here as much as you can!

**Step 5:** Freewrite **your** own perspectives on the passages. What might you wish to add or emphasize? What stance do you take as compared to the ideas presented by your sources?