






Synthesizing Sources

Synthesis is the process of combining information from outside sources with your own ideas in a paragraph or essay. If you synthesize well enough, your ideas and the outside information from other sources will flow together seamlessly.

How to Synthesize

Make a list of the **points** you will be writing about in your paper and take notes about what **each source** mentions about those points. Record **your** thoughts, ideas, reactions, and questions about each **point**. Combine all of the ideas about **one point** into a paragraph. Repeat for each point. See the example below.

Point #	Source 1 (Cooper, 2010)	Source 2 (Randolph, 2009)	My Ideas
1. Effect of social networking on teenagers 	Social networking sites are harmful for teens b/c they can be bullied.	Social networking sites are dangerous for teens b/c they are vulnerable to child predators.	These sites do not pose an increased danger of bullying- same as at school. Child predators are a risk.
2. Parental control on social networking sites 	Facebook does not offer enough parental control or security measures.	In response to concerned parents, Facebook is improving its parental control measures.	They seem to be improving, parents have to be responsible- some are not.
3. Time spent on social networking sites 	The amount of time spent on social networking sites is replacing the time teens spend watching TV.	Teens are spending twice as much time in front of a screen; social networking is not replacing TV, it is adding to it.	I think that it's not replacing TV; many teens probably have the TV on while they are on Facebook.

Example for point #2 above:

information paraphrased from source #1

Cooper (2010) argued that parental controls and security measures on social networking sites are insufficient.

definition, clarification, or explanation of source info in your own words.

Options that allow parents to view and monitor their teenager's profile aid in alerting parents of any dangerous or

paraphrased info from source #2

inappropriate conduct. However, some argue that the newly implemented changes and improvements to their controls feature in August 2010 are enough to satisfy worried parents (Randolph, 2009). Regardless of the level of parental

