

# Writing a Synthesis

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*A 'synthesis' puts together information from various sources to create new meaning in a coherent text or speech.*

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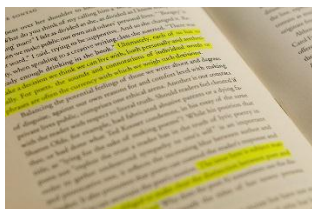
**Step 1:** Read one of the texts on the following pages and make sure you understand all of the words, as well as the relationships between the pieces of information.

**Step 2:** Take notes in your note-book, writing down the key facts and main ideas from the text you have read. Use your own words – you can use bullet points, there is no need to write full sentences.



**Step 3:** In groups, take turns to orally summarise the main idea of the text you have read. You may need to teach your group the new words you have learnt from your text.

**Step 4:** Compare your notes with your group members. Mark in colour or with numbers any bullet points which relate to the same fact or idea.



**Step 5:** Write a new set of notes as a group, arranging the bullet points which relate to the same fact of idea so that they are listed together. Don't forget to keep track of which information has come from which text!

**Step 6:** Combine your notes into one coherent text. It may be helpful to devise a 'guiding question' as your title, to make sure that you use the information from your notes to create new meaning.

For more information and an example of a written synthesis, see the Using English for Academic Purposes website by Andy Gillen:

<http://www.uefap.net/writing/writing-reporting/writing-reporting-synthesis>

