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To **synthesize** is to combine ideas and create a completely *new* idea. That new idea becomes the conclusion you have drawn from your reading. This is the true beauty of reading: it causes us to weigh ideas, to compare, judge, think, and explore—and then to arrive at a moment that we hadn't known before. We begin with a simple **summary**, work through **analysis**, evaluate using **critique**, and then move on to **synthesis**.

In your own words, try to answer the questions below. To start with a critique, you don't need to go in depth or use full sentences, but you want to jot down your ideas.

- How did you respond to the piece? Did you like it? Did it appeal to you? Could you identify with it?
- Do you agree with the main ideas in the text?
- Did you find any errors in reasoning? What might have been missed or not addressed?
- Did the organization make sense?
- Was evidence used correctly, without manipulation? Has the writer used appropriate sources for support?
- Is the author objective? Biased? Reasonable?
- Are the text's tone and language appropriate?
- Are all of the author's statements clear? Is anything confusing?
- What worked well in the text? What was lacking or failed completely?
- What is the cultural context* of the text?

The answers to these questions will help you start to build a critique of the text, which will in turn allow you to evaluate it, come to a conclusion or build a reflection of the text. We will continue on these skills in the following chapters.




 [synthesis NIH article Reading.pdf](#)


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