

## Synthesizing Resources

## Definition

According to the World English Dictionary: to *synthesize* means “to combine or cause to combine into a whole.”

- Research papers bring multiple ideas together— all on a common topic.
- Academic writers are therefore showing how various concepts relate to one another.

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## Cut and Paste

- You should remove yourself from the concept of “cutting and pasting” a paper together.
- In their analysis of the synthesis process, the editors of *Rules for Writers* use the analogy of a conversation— as a writer, you are displaying a conversation between many people.
- See page 477 in text.

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## Signal Phrases

Both *signal phrases* and *transitions* are basic beginnings of building bridges within your paragraphs.

- Remember, a signal phrase’s primary function is to introduce your material and show why the sources you use are valid.
- Plus the fact you want to show the sources are using non-biased arguments.
  - *RfW* declares that signal phrases should “indicate how sources contribute to [... your] paper and show that the ideas that follow are not [your] own” (477).

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## Transitions

There are two types of transitions:  
sentence level  
paragraph level

- Both move the reader within your essay in a smooth fashion, warning in advance what type of material will be shown.
- Transitions also show how the material works together, collectively.
- See *RfW* pages 64-65.

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## Paragraph-Level Transitions

These provide flow of information between paragraphs.

- The topic sentence of all body paragraphs must show a connection to the paper’s thesis and—
- —show a developing connection between the arguments presented.
- The collaborative project must show a cohesion between all ideas gathered.
- All ideas must reflect back to the narrowed topic (thesis) at hand.

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