Good readers will construct meaning from what they read by gaining a new perspective or thought.

Beginning Strategies to Synthesizing

• Retell
  o Give a detailed account of what was read in sequential order.
  o Represents literal comprehension
• Summarize
  o Tell the important points
  o Tell it in a logical and concise manner. Be brief but thorough.
  o Put it in the reader’s own words
    ▪ Avoid plagiarism
  o Involves critical thinking

Synthesize

• Add pieces of information together to construct meaning
  o Utilize
    ▪ Connections (text-self, text to text, text to world)
    ▪ Questions
    ▪ Inferring
    ▪ Determining importance
  o Generate
    ▪ Additional understanding to what you already know
    ▪ Gain a new perspective or new way of thinking
• After summarizing information from multiple sources, readers add their interpretations to the facts. In synthesizing, readers give the ideas and information significance and meaning.

Donald Graves believes that “writing a report is the ultimate act of synthesis.”