Section:
Using Information

Lesson:
Synthesizing Information

Learning Objectives:
By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

• Understand what it means to synthesize information
• Using multiple sources to create an argument or explore an idea
• Recognize that synthesis takes place at every step of the research and writing process
• Realize that many writing techniques, including quoting, paraphrasing, and summarizing aid in information synthesis
• Become familiar with examples of information synthesis in different disciplines

Components:

• Video – Writing Techniques
• Quiz - Academic Integrity

Introduction (real world relevance):

While the term “synthesizing information” might sound intimidating, it’s actually something you commonly do everyday, without even realizing it. At its base, synthesizing information is just taking information that you already know and relating it to something else you know or are learning about. A common way that students synthesize information is by taking things that were learned in introductory courses and using that information to better understand higher-level courses.

Discussion Topics:

Can you think of a time where you had to synthesize information? Was it for a class or in your personal life? If it was for a class, did you have follow any particular format? i.e. outlines, annotated bibs, etc...?
Now that students are aware of what synthesizing information is, have them take a few days and be consciously aware of times that they have needed to synthesize information. Have them keep a log and come prepared to share with the class.

**Activities**

Provide students with a sample paragraph and ask them to pull out the central theme(s) of the passage.

Using the same paragraph, ask students to then summarize the paragraph using their own words.

Provide students with a few short passages and have them synthesize the information from them into one paragraph.

Provide students with a few research articles (with different premises/data), ask students to compile ways in which those articles could be used together in a final paper.