

# Synthesis: Identifying Common Themes

In the right-hand column, list a source in each row. Identify themes that your sources have in common. The sources do not need to agree. In the boxes, identify the various positions that each source takes.

	Theme 1:	Theme 2:	Theme 3:	Theme 4:
Source 1:				
Source 2:				
Source 3:				
Source 4:				
Source 5:				
Source 6:				

# Synthesis: Identifying Common Themes

	Theme 1:	Theme 2:	Theme 3:	Theme 4:
Source 1:				
Source 2:				
Source 3:				
Source 4:				
Source 5:				
Source 6:				

# Synthesis: Identifying Common Themes

## Narrowing Your Focus

1. What theme or idea from the chart most interests you? Why?
2. What questions do you still have about that theme?
3. Are there any sources that you feel do not contribute to your vision for your paper?

## Finding a Thesis

1. In your own words, what do you feel that your sources are saying about your current focus?
  - a. Where do they seem to agree on your current focus?
  - b. Where do they seem to disagree about your current focus?
  - c. Is there anything that you feel has been left unsaid about your current focus?
2. Using the information in Item 1, write a few potential thesis statements or phrases. (Remember, at this stage, you are looking for a thesis **topic** rather than a complete, finished statement.)

## Organizing Your Paper

1. Using your thesis statement(s) above, outline the key points that you want to discuss in your paper. Return to the areas of agreement and disagreement if you need some help.
2. Now that you have your key points, list the relevant sources under each point and provide a brief phrase (and citation, if you can) showing how you intend to use the source.