**Synthesizing** involves taking individual pieces of information and combining them with other pieces of information and/or prior knowledge to gain a better understanding of a subject or to create a new product or idea.

**Directions:** First **read** the passages. Then **Read, Discuss, and answer** the items that follow.

1. In your own words, what complete idea or main message is most memorable about each item?

**Item 1**

**Item 2**

**Item 3**

2. Go back and reread each passage. As you reread, highlight supporting details to the main idea you found for each?

3. We can often infer why an article was written by looking at the tone and the intended audience. Review the intended audience for each piece and then circle the intended purpose of each passage below?

**Item 1**  a. inform b. entertain c. persuade d. express emotions

**Item 2** a. inform b. entertain c. persuade d. express emotions

**Item 3**  a. inform b. entertain c. persuade d. express emotions  
  
4. What do the three excerpts have in common?

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5. How are the three excerpts different?  
  
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6. **SYNTHESIZE:** Using what you learned from each passage, write a topic sentence you could use for an original essay on tsunamis.

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