

# A “Multiple Source” Summary and Response Exercise

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Lots of college and job tasks require that the student or employee be able to gather information from “multiple sources” (such as books, articles, TV programs, etc.) and write reports based on that information. To practice this skill, read the four articles on pp. 38-40 and do this exercise. When you are finished, you will have written two paragraphs: the first will summarize the recommendations made by the authors; the second will express your opinions about the recommendations.

## Step 1

*Collect the data.* Make a graphic organizer like the one below to collect information from the four articles you have just read. Write in the names of each author and then list the recommendations they offer. Ignore the first and last columns for now.

## Step 2

*Organize the data.* Review the “data” you’ve collected and decide which ones you would mention first, second, third, and so on in a one-paragraph summary. Use the “#” number column to prioritize; use pencil so you can change your mind. Alone, in groups, or in a teacher-led discussion, decide if it makes sense to group some of the

recommendations together. E.g., “Several of the authors recommended that veterans get lots of psychological support. Chlorine Ifill wants veterans and their families to receive ...”

## Step 3

*Write the draft summary paragraph.* Remember to mention the writers’ names and to “cite” them—that is, give them credit for their recommendations. E.g., “Glen McDaniel states that...”

## Step 4

*Build your response paragraph.* Using the final column of the graphic organizer, note where you agree or disagree with the recommendations and what you would change or add. These are your opinions; there are no right or wrong answers.

## Step 5

*Write a draft response paragraph.* It would help your reader if you express your opinions about the various recommendations in the same order (using “parallel structure”) that you did for the summary, so use your first column numbering as a guide.

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<b>Graphic Organizer Model*</b>			
<b>#</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Agree/Disagree/Change/Add</b>

\* Re-create this graphic organizer (with more rows) on a separate sheet of paper.