Tools for Synthesising

Synthesising is a top-level skill that helps you find your own voice!

Do	Do not
- Look for common themes. - Articulate similarities and differences across the literature (i.e. "show the reader where the sources overlap and where they diverge" (McCombes, 2020, para. 3).	Summarise the main points of each source in blocks (McCombes, 2020, para. 2).

If your sources are very similar in structure (e.g. their headings are almost the same), use a table to organise your ideas (McCombes, 2020, paras. 10 & 12):

Table: Sources With a Similar Structure				
Structure	**Source 1**	**Source 2**	**Source 3**	**Source 4**
Aims				
Methodology				
Limitations				
Findings				

If, however, "your sources are more varied in their purpose and structure", use a matrix (McCombes, 2020, para. 15) Here, the key themes will come from your creative reflection.

Matrix: Sources With a Different Structure				
Themes	**Source 1**	**Source 2**	**Source 3**	**Source 4**

References

McCombes, S. (2020, March 28). *How to synthesize written information from multiple sources.* Simply Psychology. www.simplypsychology.org/synthesising.html