

# Synthesizing Ideas About Justice

In **synthesizing** you combine or rearrange statements, feelings, or ideas to provide a new or fresh perspective on a topic.

**You synthesize when you**

- use what you already know to figure out the meaning of a new word
- combine several brainstorming suggestions to develop a solution to a problem
- use information from several different sources in a project

In what other situations would you use synthesizing?

## Synthesizing Ideas About Justice

**Essential Question:** What is justice?

**Definition:** In synthesizing you combine or rearrange statements, feelings, or ideas to provide a new or fresh perspective on a topic.

A *maxim* is a wise saying or short statement about a topic. You may have heard the familiar warning about hurrying to complete a job: “Haste makes waste.” Or you may be familiar with Benjamin Franklin’s dietary advice: “An apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Not all maxims rhyme as these two do. The following example is an ancient Latin maxim: “Extreme justice is extreme injustice.”

## Synthesizing Ideas About Justice

In a sense, a maxim is a type of synthesis or summary statement on a topic. A maxim condenses a complex situation into a short statement, apparently full of wisdom and experience. What maxims can you develop about justice now that you have read several clusters of stories, poems, and articles?

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**Directions:** Organizer A shows an example of a maxim based on a portion of “The Bishop’s Candlesticks.” Notice how the author of the maxim first located an interesting quotation from the drama, then rephrased the quotation to create the saying. No doubt, other maxims could be created from the same quotation.

Now review the selections you have read so far in this book. Select one that you think would yield a wise saying. Use Organizer B to record a quotation from your selection and your justice maxim.

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### Organizer A Selection: *The Bishop's Candlesticks*

#### Quotation

*"I give you the silver freely.  
And I want your solemn  
promise that you will use it to  
become an honest man.  
Promise me that you will start  
a new way of life."  
(page 101)*

#### Justice Maxim

*Mercy has one expectation—  
that you improve your own  
life.*

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## Organizer B Selection:

Quotation	Justice Maxim