

Developing Skills for Integrating Multimedia Sources

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How can you develop strong skills for integrating multimedia sources of information?

Good readers must learn how to integrate, or bring together, information from multimedia sources, including graphs, maps, charts, photographs, and videos. These multimedia sources will enhance the information gained from reading a text. Developing your skills of integration will help you as you research various topics and then write to communicate your ideas with others.

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Step 1: Find the main idea of each source.

Read the following excerpt from the Creating Context section of your book (page 9). It presents the text of the Second Amendment, a primary source, as well as commentary to help explain the Second Amendment.

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Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

What is the main idea of this excerpt?

Commentary

Having had their guns confiscated by the British, the leaders of the new country were eager to protect their right to bear arms. Today, however, this right is a point of debate between gun control advocates and gun rights supporters.

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Response:

The main idea is that the Constitution protects the right to have guns, but the extent of that right is open to interpretation.

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Step 1: Find the main idea of each source.

Now find the main idea in a source other than print. Study the map from the Creating Context section of the book (page 9).



What is the main idea of this map?

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Response:

The main idea is that two countries in Central America and one in the Caribbean have constitutions that protect the right to bear arms.

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Here are some hints for finding the main idea of sources in various media.

Television programs, videos, and documentaries: Take notes as you watch, or get a transcript to use as a guide. Remember that visual formats often appeal to emotions. Be aware that your emotions can be manipulated to influence how you interpret facts.

Charts, graphs, and tables: Make sure you understand any headers or abbreviations. Think about the relationships between the items on the chart or graph.

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Step 2: Ask yourself questions to determine the relationship between the sources.

- Does one illustrate, give an example of, or explain the other?
- Does one show a similar or a contrasting idea?
- Does one go into greater detail?

If you answer these questions about the print source and the map you just reviewed, you might see this relationship: The map gives further details about nearby countries with constitutions that guarantee the right to bear arms.

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Step 3: Draw a conclusion that integrates the information and shows the relationship between the ideas found in the sources.

What conclusion can you draw when you integrate the sources about gun rights?

Possible conclusion: The United States and some other countries in the Americas have included the right to gun ownership in their constitutions.

Step 4: As you integrate sources, more questions may arise. Use these questions to further your research. Repeat steps 1–3 as needed.

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Extension Activity

Use one of the questions to guide further research. Integrate sources from a variety of multimedia sources and write a paragraph summarizing your research.

- How have other countries applied their constitutional right to bear arms?
- Do Mexico, Guatemala, and Haiti have more lenient or stricter gun laws than the United States?