

## **Synthesis: Combining items of research into a new whole**

1. Synthesis: combining items of research into a new whole.
2. Let's consider the assignment: Write a paper describing the aspects of Viking culture that are found in Beowulf.
3. After doing background research, we've come up with the keywords Beowulf, Viking, Norse, and culture. We've decided to use the search string Beowulf AND (Viking OR Norse) AND Culture.
4. When we do that search we get no results.
5. While there may be no articles about Beowulf and viking culture, there are articles about viking culture. There are also articles about Beowulf and culture. What we can do is we can combine the information that we found about viking culture and the information we found about Beowulf and culture, and combine it with the information we have from the story and synthesize this together to form new information for our paper.
6. Here are the results that we have from our search for vikings AND culture.
7. These results are from our search on Beowulf and culture.
8. Remember, there may be no articles matching your topic exactly. You can search for various aspects of your topic and then synthesize your findings together in your paper.