

TOWARD A TYPOLOGY OF INTEGRATION: EXAMINING THE DOCUMENTS MODEL FRAMEWORK

(List, Du, Wang, & Lee, 2019)

Motivation

When learning about complex issues, students often need to access and synthesize information from multiple texts. This is because no single source is likely to include all of the information and perspectives needed to understand such multifaceted topics.

Guiding Question

What are the different ways that students synthesize or integrate multiple texts through writing?

Key Findings

Undergraduate students' (N=143) were asked to compose written responses on the causes of and solutions to overpopulation, based on information provided across six conflicting texts. Students' written responses were categorized according to whether or not these **integrated** or connected information across texts and whether or not these included **citations** or references to sources. This categorization was consistent with how students are describing as understanding information from multiple texts, per the Documents Model Framework (Britt et al., 1999; Perfetti et al., 1999)

Excerpts of Sample Student Responses

"As stated in "**Overconsumption is a Grave Threat**," our demands for material items and food are depleting the Earth's natural resources. As population grows, so does our need for the limited, natural resources only Earth can give us...
According to "**Empowering Women**," we can reduce unwanted pregnancies, therefore reducing overpopulation, by providing family planning resources for women."

Separate Representation Model: Citation Use, No Connection Formation

"...**Nair** also suggest that the resources need to be priced at their true cost, and that the economic system needs to be revitalized to reflect the anticipated rise in population. **Conversely**, **Allenby**..argues that technology is the only answer to the issue of overpopulation and cites that the Green Revolution provided double the amount of agriculture by utilizing high-yield crops. **Another solution** suggested by **Barroso**...was that contraceptive options should be made readily available to women."

Documents Model: Connection Formation + Citation Use

Implications

1. Discuss with students the reasons for and importance of citation use
2. Introduce students to different types of relationships between sources and perspectives. For example, sources may agree with, disagree with, complement, exemplify, or extend one another. Teach students keywords to use for relating sources and perspectives to one another through writing.
3. Ask students to analyze different model texts for the ways in which they connect sources.

Learn More

List, A. (2019). Drawing is integrating: An examination of students' graphic representations of multiple texts. *Reading Psychology, 40*(6), 491-524.

List, A., Du, H., Wang, Y., & Lee, H. Y. (2019). Toward a typology of integration: Examining the documents model framework. *Contemporary Educational Psychology, 58*, 228-242.