# Synthesis in the Discussion Section

An effective way to structure the paragraphs in your Discussion section is to organise them in the following way:

1. **State a key result from your Findings section**
2. **Compare with relevant results from other studies**
3. **Comment on the difference/similarity**

Your **comment** can include:

* speculation about the reasons for the difference/similarity (e.g. different aims, methods, sample, data analysis),
* a discussion of any limitations which could have led to the difference/similarity (and a mention of how these could be addressed in future studies),
* an attempt to critically evaluate your data in relation to other researchers’ data to draw a conclusion which helps you answer your Research Question
* a mention of any implications of your conclusion (e.g. why it’s important, or how it can be applied in the real world)
* a comment on the contribution of your conclusion (e.g. how is your result new and original, and what it brings to your academic field)

## TASK

1. **Identify the (1) result, (2) comparison and (3) comment in the paragraph below.**
2. **Analyse the comment. Which of the elements from the box above does it include?**

**Park, N., Song, H., & Lee, K. M. (2014). Social networking sites and other media use, acculturation stress, and psychological well-being among East Asian college students in the united states.*Computers in Human Behavior, 36*, 138-146. doi: 10.1016/j.chb.2014.03.037**

It is also notable that, unlike previous studies’ findings (Jeffres, 2000; Kim, 1988), neither ethnic mass media use nor U.S. mass media use was significantly associated with acculturative stress and psychological well-being, when controlling for interpersonal media use. This finding is important in that decades of acculturation studies, since first suggested by the Chicago school (Kim, 1988), have consistently demonstrated that mainstream media facilitate acculturation while ethnic media hinder it. We found that this premise could still apply to interpersonal media but not to mass media use. Given that today’s young students do not necessarily rely on traditional mass media such as television or newspapers for their information seeking or entertainment, the nonsignificant effect of mass media on acculturative stress and psychological well-being is understandable. Thus, this finding highlights the importance of interpersonal media in studying acculturation in order to better understand the current acculturation process pattern by accurately accessing the changing media environment.