RD115 Academic Thinking & Reading

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellness
Synthesis Map Instructions & Model

Sources

- Any of the material from *Well: What We Need to Talk About When We Talk About Health* by Sandro Galea
- This article, "Where You Live Affects Your Happiness And Health, But How Exactly?" by Dana Bate from National Public Radio.
- This article, "Is Crime Driving Grocery Stores out of Louisville's Low-Income Communities?" by Bailey Loosemore of the Louisville Courier Journal.

Instructions

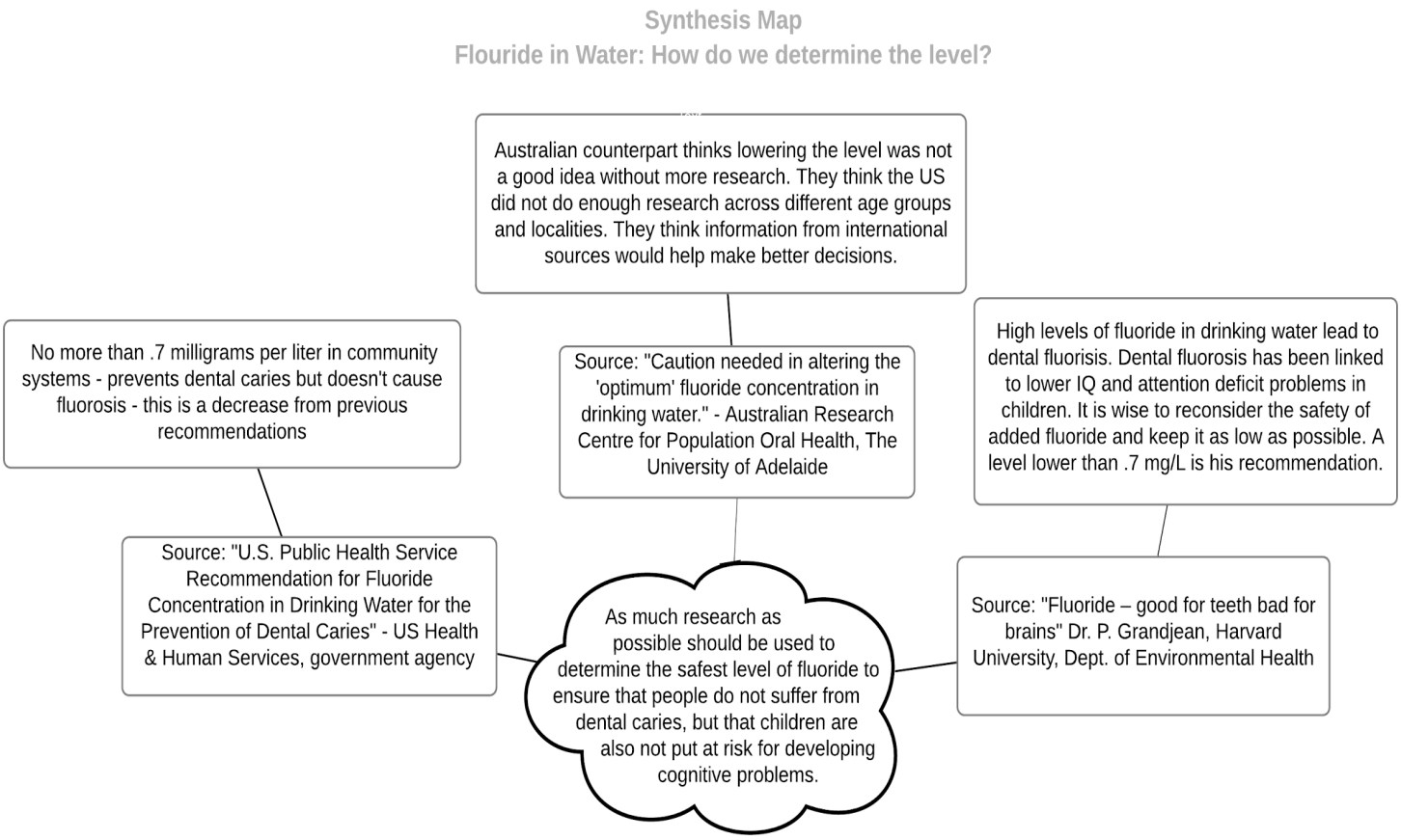
1. Consider this question: "**How are patterns of health shaped by society**?"
2. Read and annotate the two articles.
3. Draw specific information from **all three sources** that connects in some way. Select primarily factual information over opinion statements.
4. Build a synthesis map that attempts to answer the question above with specific examples, illustrations, or research. Use the model map (see below) to guide how to build yours:
   a. Paraphrase key information from a reading.
   b. List the full title of each essay.
   c. Use a map format to visually represent the act of synthesis.

Be sure that the information you selected accurately reflects the content of the above sources and that the information supports the conclusion you drew.

Scoring

Grade	Description
A	Synthesis statement is well supported by information selected. Insightful and unexpected connections Clear writing and strong paraphrasing skill
B	Synthesis statement is supported by information selected. Minor errors in representing information Writing is generally clear.
C	Synthesis statement is weakly supported by information selected. Minor errors in representing information. Lacks some clarity in writing; weak paraphrasing
D	Synthesis statement is not supported by the information selected OR it is a summary and not a synthesis of ideas. Major errors in representing information. Unclear writing or writing is copied directly from the source.
F	Did not attempt or writing is too unclear to evaluate for the ideas

Model


Synthesis Map
Flouride in Water: How do we determine the level?
Australian counterpart thinks lowering the level was not a good idea without more research. They think the US did not do enough research across different age groups and localities. They think information from international sources would help make better decisions.
No more than .7 milligrams per liter in community systems - prevents dental caries but doesn't cause fluorosis - this is a decrease from previous recommendations
Source: "Caution needed in altering the 'optimum' fluoride concentration in drinking water." - Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health, The University of Adelaide
High levels of fluoride in drinking water lead to dental fluorisis. Dental fluorosis has been linked to lower IQ and attention deficit problems in children. It is wise to reconsider the safety of added fluoride and keep it as low as possible. A level lower than .7 mg/L is his recommendation.
Source: "U.S. Public Health Service Recommendation for Fluoride Concentration in Drinking Water for the Prevention of Dental Caries" - US Health & Human Services, government agency
As much research as possible should be used to determine the safest level of fluoride to ensure that people do not suffer from dental caries, but that children are also not put at risk for developing cognitive problems.
Source: "Fluoride – good for teeth bad for brains" Dr. P. Grandjean, Harvard University, Dept. of Environmental Health