

# Using Multiple Sources for Writing and Speaking

**CCSS**

**RI.5.9:** Integrate Information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Theme: *Electronic Communication*

When newspaper reporters do research, they consult more than one source. This lets them build their knowledge of the topic and check that their facts are correct. Like a reporter, you will know much more about a topic if you combine information from multiple sources.

**Read the chart below. It contains information from three different articles about Alexander Graham Bell. Draw arrows between ideas that are similar.**

"Bell: Great Inventor"	"Hello, Watson"	"Bell or Gray?"
<p><b>Important Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bell was always interested in helping deaf people.</li> <li>• His research in hearing and speech led him to develop hearing devices.</li> <li>• In 1876, Bell created the "electronic speech machine," what would become the telephone.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Important Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1875, Bell became friends with Thomas Watson. They worked on transmitting voices over a wire line.</li> <li>• In September 1875, Bell wrote down what would become his patent.</li> <li>• Bell was awarded the first U.S. patent for the telephone in 1876.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Important Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 1876, both Bell and Elisha Gray claimed they had invented the telephone.</li> <li>• They both rushed their designs to the patent office.</li> <li>• Bell got there first.</li> <li>• Both their efforts changed the way we communicate.</li> </ul>

**Now combine information from the articles. Fill in the blanks below to try it out.**

\_\_\_\_\_ had always been interested in helping \_\_\_\_\_. In 1875, he and friend \_\_\_\_\_ experimented with \_\_\_\_\_.

This led Bell to write down what would become \_\_\_\_\_.

Although \_\_\_\_\_ also claimed to have invented the telephone, it is Bell's design, which was known as the \_\_\_\_\_, that changed \_\_\_\_\_.

Think about how the writer of this paragraph pulled together information from each of the three articles. The author could include much more information by pulling from three sources instead of just one. And notice that the facts match up across articles. Good writers and speakers always check to make sure their facts are accurate.



Read these two passages about the history of wireless communication.

Genre: History

### The First Wireless Communication *by Pete Smyth*

The first wireless message was transmitted in 1868 in Virginia. Dr. Mahon Loomis made two kites covered with a copper screen and flew them with a copper string. The atmosphere carried an electric signal eighteen miles away. It wasn't a voice, but it was a wireless transmission!

### The First Cell Phone *by Victor Walton*

Dr. Martin Cooper invented the cell phone in 1973. He made his first call on the streets of New York City. People gaped as they watched him walk and talk on the phone at the same time!

Explore how to respond to this prompt: "Use details from both passages to write a paragraph about wireless communication."

First, record what you learned from each passage by filling in the blanks below.

"The First Wireless Communication"	"The First Cell Phone"
<p><b>Important Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The first wireless message was transmitted by _____ in the year _____.</li> <li>The transmission took place in _____.</li> <li>It wasn't a voice, but it was _____.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Important Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>_____ invented the cell phone in the year _____.</li> <li>The first call was made in _____.</li> <li>People stared at Dr. Cooper.</li> </ul>

Now, write a paragraph about wireless communication. Use the chart above to help you combine information from the two passages.

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## Close Reading

Remember to read like a reporter researching a topic for an article. **Underline** the most important idea you learn from this passage.

## Hint

Which choice combines the most important information from each passage?

Now read this science passage about the future of cell phones. Use the Close Reading and the Hint to help you answer the question.

Genre: Science

## The Future of Cell Phones *by Susan Downey*

Today cell phones aren't just for talking. We use them to send text messages, read e-mail, or access the Internet. Some cell phones even talk to you or make appointments.

So what can we expect in the future? Look for cell phones that are flexible and roll out into a big screen. Other cell phones might be fashion accessories, like a bracelet. Some phones might be able to clean themselves or scan food for toxins. The possibilities are endless!

Circle the correct answer.

Which sentence most accurately combines the information from all three passages about wireless communication?

- A Wireless communication has changed over the past 150 years and has endless possibilities for the future.
- B Wireless communication has changed from 150-year-old electric signals to fashion accessories.
- C The first cell phone was used in New York City, and now they are used to scan food for toxins.
- D The first cell phone was used in Virginia, the second in New York City, and now cell phones are everywhere.

## Show Your Thinking

Look at the answer you chose above. Explain why that sentence best combines the information in the three passages.

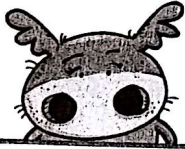
The passage above is very positive about cell phones. With a partner, discuss some of the negative (bad) aspects of cell phones.





Read the two science passages and the website about satellites. Use the Study Buddies and the Close Reading to guide your reading.

Genre: Science



If I want to report on satellites, I first need to understand what a satellite is. I'm going to underline the sentence that tells me what a satellite is.

### Close Reading

If natural satellites are moons and planets, what are artificial satellites? **Circle** an example of an artificial satellite. **Underline** what they are used for.

How does a satellite phone make a call? **Underline** the answer in the text.

## Satellite

by Roger Spandel

1 A satellite is a small body or object that revolves around a larger object in space. The Moon is Earth's satellite, and all the planets are satellites of the Sun. Moons and planets are called natural satellites.

2 Artificial satellites are human-made objects that revolve around larger, natural satellites. The first artificial satellite was *Sputnik 1*, a 182-pound (83.6 kilogram) capsule sent into orbit by the Soviet Union in 1957. Since that time, many satellites have been sent into space. Today there are hundreds of satellites circling Earth. They are used for research, weather study, navigation, and communication. Among these is the largest—the *International Space Station*, where astronauts work and research in space.

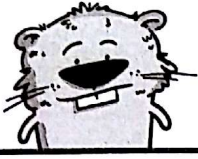
Location: [www.HaveAQuestionAskUs.com](http://www.HaveAQuestionAskUs.com)

1 Question: How do communication satellites work?

2 A cell phone uses cell towers to send and receive signals. However, in rural areas and over the oceans, it is not possible to erect cell phone towers. The solution is simple: use a satellite phone, which can cover vast distances.

3 So how does it work? A satellite phone sends a signal up to a satellite, and the signal is then sent down to a ground station. This station sends the call to the cell phone or landline. If someone wants to call a satellite phone, the reverse works, too. The call from the landline or cell phone first goes to the ground station. Then it travels up to the satellite, and then down to the satellite phone.

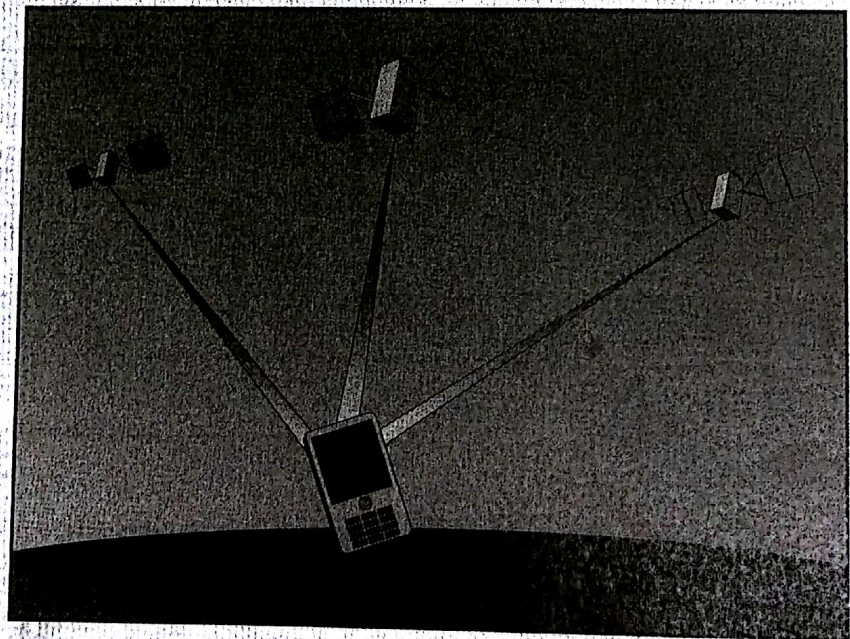




Here is a third passage about satellites. After I read this passage, I'll ask myself, "What have I already learned about satellites in the other two passages? What new facts did I find in this passage?"

## How Satellites Track Cell Phones *by J. Woo*

- 1 You might have seen television shows where the police located a missing person by locating his or her cell phone. Communication satellites make this possible if the phone has a Global Positioning System (GPS) chip inside the phone.
- 2 Some 22,000 miles high above us, the United States operates twenty-four communication satellites that orbit Earth. The satellites circle Earth every twelve hours. They are positioned so that five satellites can be seen from any point on Earth at any time of the day.
- 3 These satellites transmit radio signals down to Earth. Each satellite measures the time it takes for a signal from a chip to reach the satellite (less than one-tenth of a second). Then it multiplies the time by how fast a radio wave moves—some 186,000 miles (300,000 kilometers) a second. The result is the distance between the GPS chip and the satellite.
- 4 To determine an accurate location of a cell phone, the GPS must use at least three satellites. Four satellites make the data even more accurate. If all this sounds unbelievable, imagine this: GPS can pinpoint a location within 35 feet!



### Close Reading

The last passage told how cell phones send and receive signals. What special device must a cell phone have in order to be tracked by satellite? **Underline** the sentence that gives this information.



