

Using Sources

Building A Writer's Ethos

Integrating Sources Smoothly

- How do I integrate sources smoothly into my own sentences?
 - Using signal phrases
 - Ways of Using Outside Sources
 - Direct Quotes
 - Weaving others' words into my own sentences.
 - Summarize
 - Paraphrase
- How do I cite sources of outside materials within the text of my essay?
- How do I construct a list of works cited at the end of my essay?

Using Direct Quotes

- What are direct quotes?
 - When you reproduce the authors' exact words from the text.
Ex. According to the author, parthenogenesis can be defined as "...celibate motherhood, procreation without copulation" (Quammen 227).
- Why would I use a direct quote instead of summarizing or paraphrasing?
 - When the author's original words are more concise, vivid, or add more authority to your point than a summary or paraphrase.

How do I integrate sources smoothly into my own sentences?

- Using signal phrases
 - Integrate quotes smoothly into your essay by providing an explanatory tag *at the beginning* of your sentence to explain the quotation & show its relevance.
Ex: *According to William Birky and John Gilbert, from a paper in the journal American Zoologist* "Equilibrium species, exemplified by..."
 - Specify who is speaking, what the quotation refers to, and where it is from.
 - When you use a signal phrase to introduce a quotation, you can vary the verb w/synonyms.
Ex. The author states, admits, disputes, points out, etc.
List of synonyms can be found in our handbook.

Using Signal Phrases for Direct Quotes

- Original (weak)
Another point about sexual difference is made by Rubin. She says, "The human subject . . . is always either male or female" (171).
- Revised (strong)
Rubin questions whether unbiased kinship diagrams are even possible: "The human subject . . . is always either male or female" (171).

As you think about integrating quotations, keep looking for ways to be more concise and lively:

- Original (wordy)
In *The Prince* Machiavelli states that the general requirement of a prince is to "endeavor to avoid those things which would make him the object of hatred and contempt" (64).
- Revised (concise)
In *The Prince* Machiavelli states that a prince should "endeavor to avoid those things which would make him the object of hatred and contempt" (64).

Weaving Outside Materials into Your Own Sentences

- If the quotation is not a complete sentence, then you need to weave it into your own sentence as you would any other word, phrase, or clause:
- In medieval Europe love "was not the normal basis of marriage" (Trevelyan 64).
- Fortinbras recasts Hamlet in his own image, as a "soldier" (5.2.385).
- In Chapter 2 of the Second Treatise, Locke defines the state of nature as "a state of perfect freedom . . ." (8).

More Exs. Of Smooth Quote Integrations

- James Joyce was an Irish author who strove to depict his home city of Dublin for what it was. The Ireland that Joyce grew up in was marked by "poverty, nationalism, provincialism [...], Irish Catholicism, and censorship" (Eder 82).
- This becomes apparent when the girl's "name sprang to [his] lips at moments in strange prayers," and when he "pressed the palms of [his] hands together until they trembled, murmuring: O love! O love! many times" (Joyce 25).

Adding Words In Quotations

- If you add a word or words in a quotation, you should put brackets around the words to indicate that they are not part of the original text.
- Ex. Jan Harold Brunvand, in an essay on urban legends, states: "some individuals [who retell urban legends] make a point of learning every rumor or tale" (78).

Omitting Words in Quotations

- If you omit a word or words from a quotation, you should indicate the deleted word or word by using ellipsis marks, which are three periods (...) preceded and followed by a space.
- For example: In an essay on urban legends, Jan Harold Brunvand notes that "some individuals make a point of learning every recent rumor or tale ... and in a short time a lively exchange of details occurs" (78).
- **NOTE:** According to the 6th Edition of the *MLA Handbook*, brackets are no longer needed around ellipses unless adding brackets would clarify your use of ellipses.

Comma vs. Colon in Direct Quotes

• Incorrect

Hawking is at heart a rational empiricist, "I think there is a universe out there waiting to be investigated and understood" (44).

• Correct

Hawking is at heart a rational empiricist: "I think there is a universe out there waiting to be investigated and understood" (44).

NOTE: Make sure your quotations fit grammatically into the essay. They can't simply be stuck in anywhere. Like any other elements of writing, quotations must be presented so as to make grammatical sense.

Paraphrasing

- What is paraphrasing?
 - To paraphrase, restate an author's ideas in your own words to make the ideas clearer for your audience.
 - Paraphrases should generally recreate the original source's order & emphasis and should include most details.
 - A paraphrase should be clearer, but not necessarily briefer, than the original.

Summarizing

- What is summarizing?
 - To summarize is to condense the main ideas of a passage in your own words.
 - A summary includes only the essential points of the original, not the specific details.
 - You can summarize a paragraph, a chapter, or an entire work in a few sentences.
 - A summary is always shorter than the original and is usually shorter than a paraphrase.

Summary vs. Paraphrase

Some examples to compare:

The original passage: Students frequently overuse direct quotation in taking notes, and as a result they overuse quotations in the final research paper. Probably only about 10% of your final manuscript should appear as directly quoted matter. Therefore, you should strive to limit the amount of exact transcribing of source materials while taking notes. Lester, James D. *Writing Research Papers*. 2nd ed. (1976): 46-47.

A plagiarized version: Students often use too many direct quotations when they take notes, resulting in too many of them in the final research paper. In fact, probably only about 10% of the final copy should consist of directly quoted material. So it is important to limit the amount of source material copied while taking notes.

- **A legitimate paraphrase:** In research papers students often quote excessively, failing to keep quoted material down to a desirable level. Since the problem usually originates during note taking, it is essential to minimize the material recorded verbatim (Lester 46-47).
- **An acceptable summary:** Students should take just a few notes in direct quotation from sources to help minimize the amount of quoted material in a research paper (Lester 46-47).

Citations

- Include the author's name & page or par. #.
(Jones 147) (Jones, par.3)
- If there isn't an author, refer to the editor, compiler, or title of source ("Sound Therapy")
- If you use the author's name within the text of your sentence, there is no need to repeat it again within your citation.

Citation Examples

Incorrect

In Walden, Thoreau claims, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation" (Thoreau 5).

Correct

In Walden, Thoreau claims, "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation" (5).

Citing Indirect (Secondary) Sources

- An indirect source is a source cited in another source. For such indirect quotations, use "qtd. in" to indicate the source you actually consulted.
- For example: Ravitch argues that high schools are pressured to act as "social service centers, and they don't do that well" (qtd. in Weisman 259).
- Note that, in most cases, a responsible researcher will attempt to find the original source, rather than citing an indirect source.

Secondary Sources: Quote within a Quote

- Although Joyce later renounced his faith, his brother said that the author was, “‘God-intoxicated,’ and that his work bears the hallmark of this intoxication he never completely threw off,” which is evident through the following examples (Eder 86).

What Are the Benefits of Integrating My Sources?

- To support your points in your essay with outside sources
- To prove how much research was conducted
- To establish yours as well as your sources' authorial credibility
- To tell your readers what to expect or how to interpret the material in advance
- If you don't integrate your sources smoothly, then your writing will not flow.