

SOURCE INTEGRATION

When writing a paper, you may want to refer to a source’s exact words in order to convey their argument or point to your reader. The purpose of using quotations, then, is to acknowledge the viewpoint of another person or organization in support of your argument. This means that quotations should enhance, support, or challenge your argument rather than make the argument for you.

DOs	DON'Ts
Use quotations from your sources in moderation to illustrate or add credibility to your own points.	Use quotations as filler that overpowers your paper.
Select relevant, crucial quotations.	Quote information that could more easily be put into your own words.
Vary quoting with paraphrasing and summarizing.	Solely rely on quotations to convey the source’s ideas.
Introduce your quotation’s point and source before using/referencing it.	Use the same introductory method for each quotation.
Follow your quotation with an explanation or analysis of that information.	Move on to the next point or quotation before you have discussed the one being used.
Use your best judgment when incorporating the quotation, based on its context and the author’s overall argument.	Distort what your source says by taking the information out of context.

SIGNAL PHRASES: INTRODUCING THE QUOTATION

Before quoting, remember to prepare the reader for the quotation by using a sentence or signal phrase.

EXAMPLE: *According to Karr, “In some circles, the word green represents a beautiful and innovative future, while in others, it is used as a curse” (63).*

This introduction includes a sentence that prepares the reader for the context of the quotation (which will presumably discuss the usefulness of quoting in academic papers) and uses the signal phrase “According to” to introduce the source being referenced. Note that the period comes after the parenthetical citation and not at the end of the quotation.

USE A VARIETY OF SIGNAL PHRASES. Do not introduce all secondary sources in the form of “According to.”

EXAMPLE: *In her 2009 article “Divergences,” published in Writing Praxis, Karr aptly notes that...*

EXAMPLE: *As Karr claims in “Divergences,” the term green has at least six distinct applications for D.C. lobbyists.*

OTHER SIGNAL PHRASES: points out, reiterates, illustrates, considers, posits, disagrees, demonstrates, contends, discusses, acknowledges, suggests, considers, describes, maintains, clarifies, agrees, explains, determines, or asserts

INCORPORATING THE QUOTATION

Avoid “dropped quotations,” or simply dropping the quotation into the paper without any subsequent explanation or analysis.

FOLLOW THE QUOTATION WITH AN EXPLANATION OF WHAT IT MEANS if it is complex or needs to be broken down.

EXPLAIN WHY THE QUOTATION RELATES TO YOUR PAPER.

EXAMPLE: *In The Body Multiple: Ontology in Medical Practice, Annmarie Mol argues that the experiences of*
signal phrase

illness in different contexts proliferate, challenging the very notion of static illness. As she claims, “So what I am trying
summarizing the author’s “big picture” argument

to relate is not that there are two, five, or seventy variants of atherosclerosis, but that there is a multiplicity.”

(Annmarie Mol 51). This argument suggests an approach to medicine that will account for a variety of atherosclerosis,
explains how Mol’s argument is relevant to this paper

even within individual patients.

