Quote Incorporation & Effective Integration

How to Deal With Sources:

Many research papers and essays require incorporation of both primary (the main source with which you are working) and secondary (the source that analyzes the primary source) sources. You can summarize, paraphrase, or quote information from these sources when referring to them in your papers.

- When you summarize, you use entirely your own words to give a shortened version of the original source.
- When you paraphrase, you use entirely your own words, but your paraphrase will be the same length as the original source.
- When you quote, you directly place information from outside sources into your own papers; you must recreate the original source in your text exactly as you found it (or use ellipsis or brackets to indicate any changes you make in order to make your sentence grammatical), and you must put quotation marks around any material that is not entirely your own.

Quote Integration Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO</th>
<th>DON’T</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use quotations from your sources in moderation to illustrate your own points.</td>
<td>Use quotes as filler that overpowers your paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select relevant, crucial quotes. In secondary sources, look for places where the writer specifically references his/her argument.</td>
<td>Quote information that could more easily be put into your own words.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduce your quotation or work the quote into your own sentence.</td>
<td>Use the same introductory method for each quotation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow your quotation with an explanation of your particular analysis of that information.</td>
<td>Distort what your source says by taking the information out of context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow your professor’s preferred documentation style (MLA or APA, for example).</td>
<td>Select quotes for your paper and wait until the end of the writing process to cite them. Cite as you go to avoid confusion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample Quotation

Here is a quotation from travel writer Rick Steves: “Ancient ruins in Greece can quickly go from magnificent to mind-numbing. Great — yet another nameless hill with more stony remnants of people from centuries past. Just because something dates from B.C. doesn't mean it has to be seen. Be selective about your ancient sightseeing. Three of my favorite ruins are Delphi, Epidavros, and Mycenae. All are within three hours of Athens — and all are well worth the trek” (Steves 5).

Incorporation

If you wanted to incorporate some of that quote into a research paper, begin with the two steps below:

- Find Steves’s argument. (Steves argues against visiting all ancient sites and offers three specific ancient sites that he finds worthwhile.)
- Determine how Steves’s argument relates to your paper topic and thesis statement.

Avoid quote dropping

Ineffective quoting: *Greece offers myriad opportunities for exploring ancient sites. “Three of my favorite ruins are Delphi, Epidavros, and Mycenae. All are within three hours of Athens—and all are well worth the trek” (Steves 5).*

In the above example, the quotation is not introduced or incorporated into a sentence. It’s unclear whether the person quoting Steves agrees or disagrees with him, and the quotation is disconnected from the previous sentence. Notice also how the voice inappropriately shifts from the research paper writer to the “my” belonging to Steves.

Better approaches

The following examples provide context for the quote instead of “dropping” it in

- *Greece offers myriad opportunities for exploring ancient sites. However, Rick Steves argues that not all sites are worth a traveler’s time and recommends Delphi, Epidavros, and Mycenae because “[a]ll are within three hours of Athens—and all are well worth the trek” (5).*
- *Greece offers myriad opportunities for exploring ancient sites. As Rick Steves aptly notes, “Three of my favorite ruins are Delphi, Epidavros, and Mycenae. All are within three hours of Athens—and all are well worth the trek” (5).*

Avoid repetition

Do not introduce all secondary sources in the form of “According to.” It is best to use a variety of methods to integrate sources. By using a phrase like “aptly notes,” the research paper writer both introduces Steves and indicates agreement with him. Some other useful verbs for introducing quotes are considers, illustrates, discusses, explains, points out, posits, shows, etc.