



Quoting vs. Paraphrasing

A-State Online Writing Center

Most college writing, no matter the discipline, will require you to incorporate sources into your text. The research included in your paper provides you with ethos; this is important because it shows the audience your credibility as a producer of knowledge in your specific discipline. The process of incorporating research is essential, but sometimes it is hard to determine when and how to utilize a quote or paraphrase. Let's look at the differences between quoting and paraphrasing and how to present them in your work.

Quoting: Quoted passages are taken word for word, thoughtfully placed in your paper, use quotation marks, and reference the author. In most circumstances, quotes should be incorporated sparingly because your text should be in your own words. However, there are times when direct quotes are necessary:

When to Quote:

- To show where other authors support the claims you are making

- This provides you with ethos by showing how other authors have built on that idea within the discipline and then showing how you're building on that knowledge.
- **To counter another author's specific idea/claim**
 - This helps you insert new ideas/ways of thinking into your discipline by critiquing another author's ideas.
- **To showcase the original author's language**
 - Sometimes, a really good piece of text encapsulates everything you want to say in the perfect way. When this happens, and you find that paraphrasing it would take away from its impact or lose/change the meaning, you can directly quote it instead.

How to Integrate a Quote Successfully:

- **Introduce the Quote:** Use signal words right before introducing it, such as the author's name or title of the work being used. Then show the relationship of this quote to your ideas.
- **Cite:** Use quotation marks, the original language and punctuation of the direct quote, and an in-text citation to show from where exactly you took this quote.
- **Explain:** After you introduce and utilize a direct quote, discuss how it fits in with the rest of your argument. Why is it important to your argument? How does it help prove your point? What does this quote mean, and how does it interact with your own ideas?
- **Format:** Check the format of your quote.
 - Is the period after the in-text citation instead of being placed after the quotation marks?

- If the quote is an exclamation or question, are those punctuations inside the quotation marks like they need to be?
- Did you use an ellipsis (...) if you only quoted part of the phrase?
- If using a semicolon or colon after the quote, did you place it outside of your closing quotation marks?

Original Quote from the Text: “There is a growing awareness that in different fields of human life, personal behaviours and attitudes can bring about change. With regard to green behaviour, current literature highlights how, in many situations, environmental protection may also be influenced by people’s behaviours and individual choices. Reflecting this, psychology and behavioural sciences can provide specific insight in examining individual people’s actions and behaviours to support the resolution of environmental issues” (Riva, 2019).

Let’s use the highlighted section above to show how we can integrate this quote:

In Riva’s article “Cognitive Tips for Changing Mindsets: Improving Policies to Protect Health and Environment,” she argues how life experiences affect peoples’ response to global environmental crises, “with regard to green behaviour, current literature highlights how, in many situations, environmental protection may also be influenced by people’s behaviours and individual choices” (Riva, 2019). This is significant because if we can change the way people are taking in this knowledge or reach them at an earlier stage of life development, we can shift their perspective on “green behavior.”

The first highlighted section here introduces the quote, the second shows the citation, and the third shows the explanation of the quote's significance.

Paraphrasing: Using your words to express someone else's thoughts and ideas. In writing, you are looking to keep the same idea the author is presenting, but you're phrasing it to match your own style of writing. Because you're matching the authors ideas but using your own language, it is easier to integrate these into writing.

When to Paraphrase:

- To use the same idea, but change the wording to fit your writing style
- To say the same idea, but with fewer words.

Let's take the original quote used above and paraphrase it:

According to Silvia Riva (2019) in "Cognitive Tips for Changing Mindsets: Improving Policies to Protect Health and Environment," new evidence in the field of behavioral psychology suggests that learned "behaviors" and personal experiences have a direct impact on actions that can improve or hinder our world. Furthermore, they have discovered methods to pinpoint these "behaviors" and attempt to change them.

- Notice that we changed the structure to fit our text better.
- Notice that we do have a couple examples of shared language and those are isolated with quotation marks.

- Notice that we kept that shared language but used synonymous words and phrases to create the same meaning.

Essential Tips for Both Quoting and Paraphrasing:

- Read through the entire source and don't pull your quotes out of context.
- Highlight main ideas that you would want to paraphrase or key phrases you would like to quote.
- If the quote is weak but the idea is solid, paraphrase it.
- Whether it is a quote or paraphrase, explain it's significance to your argument in the next sentence.

Sources Utilized:

<https://search-proquest->

<com.ezproxy.library.astate.edu/docview/2304050377/fulltextPDF/E6E249DC8B764983PQ/1?ac>

<countid=8363>