



The Write Way to Integrate Sources



An Academic Success Center Workshop

Dr. Kristianne Kalata, 2.11.21



WHY do we integrate sources?

to justify our topic of study

to support our ideas

to *complicate* our ideas!

to provide background / context for
our argument

to impress our professors

other reasons? *CREDIBILITY!*

HOW do we integrate sources?

use sparingly
& surround
with clear
statements of
why/how quote
is useful

DIRECT QUOTE

when you cannot possibly
express an idea any better than
the source's author

communicates
your
understanding
of specific
ideas within a
source

PARAPHRASE

when you are able to convey a
source's idea in your own words;
approx. the same length as the
original sentence/phrase

communicates
your
understanding
of a source's
overall
contribution to
its topic

SUMMARY

when you convey a source's
overall argument in your own
words; much shorter than the
original source

Ask your professor which of these methods best suits your assignment. Work to achieve **BALANCE**, and remember: *All three methods require citing!*

PRACTICE

Two Examples

Templates for purposeful source integration



Templates for Effective Source Integration

~From Graff & Birkenstein, *They Say / I Say* (Norton, 2018)

Introducing “standard views”

1. Americans today tend to believe that _____.
2. The standard way of thinking about topic X has it that _____.
3. Many people assume that _____.

Introducing something implied or assumed

1. One implication of X’s treatment of _____ is that _____.
2. Although X does not say so directly/explicitly, she apparently assumes that _____.

Disagreeing, with reasons

1. I think X is mistaken because she overlooks _____.
2. X’s claim that _____ rests upon the questionable assumption that _____.
3. I disagree with X’s view that _____ because, as recent research has shown, _____.

Establishing why your claims matter

1. Although X seems trivial, it is in fact crucial in terms of today’s concern over _____.
2. Ultimately, what is at stake here is _____.
3. My discussion of X is in fact addressing the larger matter of _____.
4. Although X may seem of concern to only a small group of _____, it should in fact concern anyone who cares about _____.

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Entertaining objections

1. Of course, many will probably disagree with this claim that _____. (Note: When possible, try to provide more information about whom “many” refers to. Does it refer to many people in general? Most Westerners? Most men? Many white people? Many feminists? Most bourgeois apologists?)
2. Yet is it always true that _____? Is it always the case, as I have been suggesting, that _____?
3. Some readers might challenge my view that _____. After all, many believe that _____. Indeed, my own argument that _____ seems to ignore _____ and _____.

Making concessions while still standing your ground

1. Although I agree with X up to a point, I cannot accept his overall conclusion that _____.
2. Although I disagree with much of what X says, I fully endorse his final conclusion that _____.
3. X is right that _____, but she seems to be on more dubious ground when she claims that _____.
4. Whereas X provides ample evidence that _____, Y and Z’s research on _____ and _____ convinces me that _____ instead.
5. Proponents of X are right to argue that _____. But they exaggerate when they claim that _____.
6. While it is true that _____, it does not necessarily follow that _____.

Closing thoughts

1. **Choose sources wisely**. Quality matters. Block off sufficient time for research, make friends with a librarian, and do good work. It will pay off.
1. **Integrate sources purposefully** by asking yourself: what kind of information do I need to develop my ideas in each section of my paper? Your professors can tell when you are copying and pasting a quote into a paragraph at the last minute.
1. Return to the **resources in these slides**, and **visit the Academic Success Center!**

Questions?

