

EXAMPLE #1: Humanities

See excerpt from student paper below.¹ Does it integrate source material effectively? Why or why not?

Assignment: Analyze Jay Gatsby as tragic hero in Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*

Gatsby finds that fabricating his life story is appealing because he knows that money is the source of Daisy's allegiance. He decides to re-invent himself to sound good enough for her, which becomes a life-consuming quest for him. She is the perfect, unattainable goal, and he loves her more than anything else. In chapter 3 of the novel, Jay Gatsby shares his created identity:

'I'll tell you God's truth.' His right hand suddenly ordered divine retribution to stand by. 'I am the son of some wealthy people in the Middle West- all dead now. I was brought up in America but educated at Oxford, because all my ancestors had been educated there for many years. It is a family tradition.' (65)

Connect this quote to truth of G's identity via summary

Gatsby's expression of identity is not out of the ordinary for characters in American literature of the 1920s...

¹ Adapted from "[Textual Evidence Samples](#)," The Writing Studio at Vanderbilt University

EXAMPLE #2: Science

See example from student paper below.² Does it integrate source material effectively? Why or why not? And how do its methods of source integration differ from the humanities example above?

Assignment: Analyze the nesting behavior of a bird species of your choice.

The zebra finch (*Poephila guttata*) is a sexually dimorphic, social estrildid native to the grasslands of Australia. They are opportunistic, year-round breeders which nest in colonies of variable size. Zebra finches form permanent pair bonds and both sexes share the responsibilities of nest building, incubation and rearing of young (Walter, 1973). Morris (1954), however, reported that although both sexes pick up and nibble on fragments of material, males collect most of the nesting material.

Studies on the effects of colored plastic leg bands on pair formation show that male zebra finches spend more time sitting next to females wearing black or pink leg bands than females wearing light blue leg bands. The same studies indicate that females spend more time sitting next to males wearing red leg bands than males wearing light green bands. In both male and female, orange leg bands (which are similar to natural leg color) proved to be of intermediate preference (Burley, 1981 and 1982).

² Courtesy of Dr. Emily Hall, Interim Director of [Writing Across the Curriculum at U of Wisconsin-Madison](#).