GeorgiaState University | WRITING STUDIO

Incorporating Quotes and Research in Your Paper

Never Plagiarize!
Plagiarism occurs when you write someone else's opinion or idea as your own. This can be intentional (a student deliberately attempts to pass off the writing of another as his/hers) or accidental (student tries to acknowledge source but does so incorrectly).

Both forms of plagiarism violate the principles of academic honesty and will not be tolerated. Penalties, especially for those who commit deliberate plagiarism, can be severe.

You always want to make sure to give credit to any sources of information that you access to research your papers. The way you do this is through quotations, paraphrasing, and a Works Cited page.

Use Quotes
Use quotes when you find another person's opinion that fully explains a point you are trying to make. You will need a lead-in (attribution) for your quotes. If you mention the author's name in your lead in, you will not have to put the author's name in your parenthetical citation.

Sample Lead-Ins/Attributions:

Simple: Hammerstein writes, "You've got to be taught how to hate" (22).

Good: Hammerstein discusses racial discrimination when he writes, "You've got to be taught how to hate" (22).

Better: Racial discrimination can only be learned by example according to Hammerstein: "You've got to be taught how to hate" (22).

Paraphrase Information
When you access new knowledge on a topic from a source, but paraphrase the information in your own words, you still need to attribute the information to the original source. You also need to make sure the information is in your own words; otherwise, you would need to quote. Simply changing around a few words or sentence structure of the source suggests that you have not thought carefully about the reading. If you must paraphrase, do so without the source in front of you, then check for accuracy after you finish the paraphrase.

Incorporating Quotes and Research (Continued)

Sample Information:

Greek religion was developed not by priests nor by prophets nor by saints nor by any set of men who were held to be removed from the ordinary run of life because of a superior degree of holiness; it was developed by poets and artists and philosophers, all of them people who instinctively leave thought and imagination free, all of them, in Greece, men of practical affairs (174).
--Edith Hamilton, *The Greek Way*. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 1948. Print.

Sample Paraphrase:

Plagiarism: Greek religion was developed by poets and artists and philosophers, all of them people who instinctively leave thought and imagination free.

Unclear: Greek religion was not developed by prophets or saints who were removed from ordinary life, but by poets and philosophers who were engaged in practical affairs (Hamilton 174).

Good: According to Edith Hamilton, Greek religion was developed by active and pragmatic men who understood the political and economic realities of the world they lived in and still did not allow their imaginations to be limited by others (174).

Better: Many of the Greeks' deepest spiritual insights were not the result of divine revelation or commandment but of human imagination and reason. Greek religion, as Edith Hamilton has suggested, was developed, "by poets and artists and philosophers…people who instinctively leave thought and imagination free…" (174).

Write a Proper Works Cited Page
(See also "MLA Style Basics")
You will need to include any source you quote or paraphrase on your works cited page. This should always be the last page(s) of your paper. This page is formatted like any other page in your paper: Times New Roman 12 point font, double-spaced, one-inch margins, correct header.

Sources should be listed alphabetically in your works cited page.

You should use a hanging indent for sources that use more than one line of text to document.