

## WHAT IS A DROPPED QUOTATION/ PARAPHRASE?

A **dropped quotation or paraphrase** (sometimes simply called a “dropped quote”) are lines or passages from your researched sources that stand alone as sentences inside your work or are spliced into your ideas in a way that does not indicate to whom they belong. Whether you are directly quoting or paraphrasing, it should be indicated within your text which ideas you have borrowed from other sources and to whom they belong.

## HOW TO AVOID DROPPED QUOTATIONS/ PARAPHRASE:

What a dropped quote looks like:

In the new *Thor: Ragnarok*, Jeff Goldblum plays the master of ceremonies. “The worst thing I can say about him is that he’s more appealing here than well-used” (Seitz 2017, para. 2).

[APA Style]

This includes a citation, but it **doesn’t** cue the reader/ listener that the second sentence doesn’t belong to you. This is disingenuous and will cause your audience to distrust you.

Here is what it looks like when you include a signal phrase to introduce someone else’s idea:

In the new *Thor: Ragnarok*, Jeff Goldblum plays the master of ceremonies. Yet as Matt Zoller Seitz points out, “the worst thing I can say about him is that he’s more appealing here than well-used” (Seitz 2017, para. 2).

[MLA Style]

**Thoughtful writers should employ these strategies for smoothly integrating source material into their own work:**

- **Use a signal phrase at the beginning or end of the quotation/ paraphrase:**

Sample signal phrases:

Noted journalist John Doe proposed that “ . . . ” (14). [MLA Style]

Despite overwhelming appreciation for The Beatles, Shay Davis suggests, “...” (97). [MLA Style]

Experts from The Centers for Disease Control advise ... (CDC 2013, para. 6). [APA Style]

“ . . . ,” suggested researcher Jane Doe (2008, p. 1). [APA Style]

- **Use an informative sentence to introduce the quotation/ paraphrase:**

Sample introductory sentences:

The results of dietician Sally Smith’s research counter the popular misconception that a vegan diet is nutritionally incomplete: “...” (246). [MLA Style]

An experiment conducted by Dave Brown (2010) indicates that texting while driving is more dangerous than previously believed: [paraphrase] (p. 13). [APA Style]

- **Use appropriate signal verbs to indicate the ideas of others:**

**Argues, acknowledges, adds, confirms, claims, describes, discusses, emphasizes, illustrates, lists, notes, observes, reports, states, suggests, etc.**

Kamala Khan adds that “although we may not be aware of the mechanism...” (13). [MLA Style]

To the contrary, however, Clark Kent (2017) suggests, “These are not the main ... .” (p. 214) [APA Style]