APA Source Integration

Paraphrases, summaries, and direct quotations are used to integrate ideas from other writers. **ALWAYS** properly cite sources within the text and on the References page to AVOID PLAGIARISM. Please see the *Quote Sandwich* handout for further information.

**Paraphrasing** is putting others’ ideas into your own words and doesn’t require quotation marks. Finding synonyms for the words is plagiarism if the sentences are still too similar.

For example: the colors below indicate the pieces of each sentence that match. Even though the words are different, more has to be done than changing the words. The words have to be expressed in a new way.

| Source: The *Writing Center* appears to have cat mascots because cats are incorporated into signage and fliers. |
| Plagiarism: The *center for writing in the Tutoring Lab* seems to have chosen cats for mascots. Everything they use has cats. |
| Paraphrase: The source suggests that images of cats can be found throughout the Writing Center because they chose cats for a mascot (Coonrod, 2016, p. 1). |

**Note:** Make sure you cite your paraphrase properly by using a signal phrase, for example “The source suggests,” and an in-text citation, or it will still be plagiarism. Please see our *Plagiarism* and in-text citation handouts for more details.

**Summarizing** is taking a large amount of information from one source and writing the main ideas in your own words. The source’s information should be used as the source intended.

**Directly Quoting** is copying two or more of the source’s exact words and punctuation from the source. Include quotation marks around a direct quote:

According to *Ben Franklin’s Almanac*, “A purring cat is, generally speaking, a relaxed, content cat. Recent studies suggest that the more your cat purrs, the greater its chances of a long and healthy life” (Phillips, Hale, & Peery, 2003, p. 246).
## Before a Direct Quote

Prior to quoting a whole sentence, **provide the reader a connection** between the quote and the main point. Put a colon between a complete sentence and the quote.

### Example:
*Ben Franklin’s Almanac* gives suggestions to lengthen your cat’s life: “A purring cat is, generally speaking, a relaxed, content cat. Recent studies suggest that the more your cat purrs, the greater its chances of a long and healthy life” (Phillips, Hale, & Peery, 2003, p. 246).

## Avoid Ghost Quotes!

“Ghost quotes” are quotes that have no connection to your points. Always explain how a quote relates to the main point. The example given does **NOT** offer proper context. It is a ghost quote.

### Error:
Cats tend to curl up in bizarre places such as sinks, baskets, and boxes. According to *Ben Franklin’s Almanac*, “A purring cat is, generally speaking, a relaxed, content cat” (Phillips, Hale, & Peery, 2003, p. 246).

### Note:
Do **NOT** change the meaning of the quote to fit your point. Make sure to keep the author’s original meaning when you are using his or her words or ideas.

## Suggested Approaches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quotes should be exact, but they also need to fit the grammar of your sentence. Use brackets [ ] to indicate words you changed to fit your sentence better.</th>
<th><em>Ben Franklin’s Almanac</em> informs readers “the more [their] cat purrs, the greater its chances of a long and healthy life” (Phillips, Hale, &amp; Peery, 2003, p. 246).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shorten quotes using ellipses (…) to indicate where you left words out. This is useful on longer quotes when you want to avoid block quote formatting. Only keep information that is relevant to your point.</td>
<td>According to <em>Ben Franklin’s Almanac</em>, “A purring cat is … a relaxed, content cat. … The more your cat purrs, the greater its chances of a long and healthy life” (Phillips, Hale, &amp; Peery, 2003, p. 246).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A split quote is a quote that is interrupted by the author’s name and can include credentials. Split the quote carefully to avoid awkward phrasing.</td>
<td>“A purring cat is,” according to <em>Ben Franklin’s Almanac</em>, “generally speaking, a relaxed, content cat” (Phillips, Hale, &amp; Peery, 2003, p. 246).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Indirect Quotes** are ideas from a source that came from a different source. Give the original author credit for the idea in the signal phrase. In the parenthetical reference, begin with “as cited in” and cite the source where you found the idea.

*Ben Franklin’s Almanac* claimed that “Recent studies suggest that the more your cat purrs, the greater its chances of a long and healthy life” (as cited in The CWI Writing Center, 2016).

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