Tips for Integrating Research Sources into Your Writing

Physics / Global Studies 280
Writing Lab, Spring 2019

Principle #1

Your own words and ideas should come first, most, and last.

Use research to lend credibility to, provide support for, and enrich your discussion.

Principle #1 Editing Check

Are beginnings and endings in your own words: at the whole paper, section, and paragraph levels?

If you were to underline each instance of research in your paper, would the majority of the paper be free from marking?

Principle #2

Make sense of research for your readers.

(a) Present research in a form in which you have already made sense of it for your readers, unless you have a good reason to use another.

n.b. In other words, summarize or paraphrase more often than you quote. Have a good reason for choosing to include a quotation.

Form of Presenting & Integrating Research

characterize multiple sources

summarize multiple sources

[abstract a whole single source]

characterize a single source

summarize a portion of a single source

paraphrase a passage from a single source

quote from a single source

excerpt words and phrases and join them together with your words

give a short but continuous excerpt

give a long but continuous excerpt

citation or string of citations only

reader does the
most sensemaking
(less processed)

Principle #2 continued

Make sense of research for your readers.

(b) Actively incorporate the research into your discussion.

Introduce the research, present it in the form you've chosen, and then analyze it further and explain how it matters to your discussion. Don't just drop it in and leave it.

n.b. The less processed the form (e.g., a long, continuous quotation), the more you need to explain what it means and why it matters. As a rule, do not allow a quotation to "speak for itself."

Summary

A brief restatement of the content of a passage, focusing on the central idea(s). Shorter than the original. Must accurately reflect the original's meaning.

1. **Introduce:** Refer explicitly to the author and source of the summary.
2. **Present:** Provide the summary in your own words. Can selectively incorporate quoted words or phrases, but they must be marked.
3. **Analyze:** Explain and/or interpret the passage and how it matters to your discussion. Be sure to separate your analysis from the summary.

Must be cited, regardless of the source.

Paraphrase

A precise restatement of the content of a passage, often used for clarification or translation of a complex or difficult text. Around the same length as the original. Must accurately reflect the original's meaning.

1. **Introduce:** Refer explicitly to the author and source of the paraphrase.
2. **Present:** Provide the paraphrase in your own words, using your own sentence structures. Can selectively incorporate quoted words or phrases, but they must be marked.
3. **Analyze:** Explain and/or interpret the passage and how it matters to your discussion. Be sure to separate your analysis from the paraphrase.

Must be cited, regardless of the source.

Quotation

An excerpt from a text, marked by formatting conventions to separate it from the writer's text.

May be presented in one of three ways: as excerpted words and phrases joined together by the writer's own words, as a short but continuous excerpt, or as a long but continuous excerpt. Must mirror the original in every respect. The writer should note any alterations, such as added emphasis, or errors in the original, so that the reader does not assume these were made during transcription.

1. **Introduce:** Refer explicitly to the author and source of the quotation. Explain the context for the quotation in the original if it is important for making plain the original author's intent.

2. **Present:** Provide the quotation in the author's words. Quotations must be accurately transcribed and precisely formatted / punctuated to mark them off from surrounding text.

3. **Analyze:** Explain and/or interpret the exact language used and how it matters to your discussion.

Must be cited, regardless of source.

The threat of a nuclear attack on the United States or its allies has not vanished with the fall of the Soviet Union… If a war between Russia and NATO were to occur, it is possible that the Russian military would deploy either tactical or strategic nuclear weapons. Jacek Durkalec, a research analyst for the Polish Institute of international affairs, explains that "Russia's nuclear brinkmanship has strengthened the presumption that any hypothetical conflict between NATO and Russia would involve Russian nuclear threats, implicit or explicit" (2015). By maintaining a nuclear deterrent, the United States is dissuading the Russian military from deploying nuclear weapons due to fear of retaliation. The situation is similar with North Korea: although their nuclear program cannot currently mass produce nuclear weapons, the state still maintains the ability to attack Japan or South Korea with nuclear weapons (Cha & Kang, p. 27). The fear of retaliation from the United States under the doctrine of mutually assured destruction keeps the North Korean military from launching such an attack. In his article "Modernizing Nuclear Arsenals: Whether and How," Eugene Miasnikov puts forward the idea that a nuclear force will be necessary until every nuclear power in the world disarms itself (2015). However, worldwide simultaneous nuclear disarmament is an unlikely event; therefore it is advisable to the US to maintain a capable nuclear arsenal to deter a nuclear strike.

White = provide a context for the source material (own claims/ideas)

Yellow = present source material (summary, paraphrase, quotation)

Blue = explain and/or interpret it (own ideas about the material)

Green = explain how it matters to discussion (own claims/ideas)

Principle #2a & 2b Editing Check

Do you summarize or paraphrase more than you quote?

When you quote, do you use only as much of the original as is absolutely necessary?

Do you introduce *before* and analyze *after* presenting a summary, paraphrase, or quotation?

Takeaways

Always emphasize your own ideas; supplement them with research.

Minimize your use of others' words.

Moderate the amount of research you include.

BUT

Maximize its value to your discussion through effective integration.