MLA Source Integration

NYFA Writing Center

NYFA | NEW YORK FILM ACADEMY

NYFA — WRITING CENTER

MLA Source Integration

Pre-Assessment

Two Truths & a Lie

MLA Edition

Two Truths & a Lie — MLA Edition

1. *If you mention the author's name in a signal phrase, you don't need to include it again in the parenthetical citation.*

2. *You don't need to cite a source if you're only summarizing the main idea in your own words.*

3. *Integrating sources effectively adds credibility to your argument and helps avoid plagiarism by giving proper credit.*

Which is the lie?

Two Truths & a Lie – MLA Edition

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2. *You don't need to cite a source if you're only summarizing the main idea in your own words.*

3. *Integrating sources effectively adds credibility to your argument and helps avoid plagiarism by giving proper credit.*

Which is the lie?
The lie is #2. Even if you're summarizing in your own words, you must still provide a citation to credit the original source and avoid plagiarism.

Source Integration 101

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- **What is source integration?**
  - Source integration is the process of incorporating information from external sources into your own writing to support and strengthen your argument or analysis.
- **What does it involve?**
  - Source integration involves effectively using and citing a variety of quotes, summaries, and paraphrases from reputable sources, combined with your own insights, to create a credible and well-supported research paper.
- **Why is it important?**
  - Source integration strengthens your argument with credible research, demonstrates critical thinking, and illustrates your comprehension of the research on your topic. It also prevents plagiarism by ensuring proper credit and supports your perspective with trustworthy evidence.
- **What is the purpose of source integration?**
  - The purpose of source integration is to provide support for your arguments by incorporating credible sources.

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MLA In-Text Citations

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- **What are in-text citations?**
  - In-text citations are brief references within the text of your paper to indicate the source of ideas or quotes.
- **What do they include?**
  - Authors last name and page number in parenthesis at the end of the sentence followed by a period.
    - Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).
  - Two authors? Use both of their last names.
    - The authors claim that surface reading looks at what is "evident, perceptible, apprehensible in texts" (Best and Marcus 9).
  - More than two authors? Use et al. after the first author's name.
    - The authors claim that one cause of obesity in the United States is government-funded farm subsidies (Franck et al. 327).
  - No author? Use a shortened title.
    - Titles longer than a standard noun phrase should be shortened into a noun phrase by excluding articles. For example, *To the Lighthouse* would be shortened to *Lighthouse* (*Purdue OWL*).

(*Purdue OWL*).

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    - Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).
  - …
- **Why are they important?**
  - In-text citations clearly connect evidence to its source.
  - Allows readers to locate full details in the works cited page.
  - Prevents plagiarism by crediting original authors.
- **When should you use them?**
  - You should use in-text citations whenever you quote, summarize, or paraphrase.

(*Purdue OWL*).

What are three main types of source integration?

Quoting, Summarizing, and Paraphrasing

Quoting

Quoting

- **A quote…**
  - is an exact copy of someone else's words.
  - must be enclosed in quotation marks.
  - must be credited to the original author or speaker.

Summarizing vs. Paraphrasing

Summarizing vs. Paraphrasing

- **A summary…**
  - shorter than the original
  - contains only the main idea
  - expressed in different words than the original
  - must be credited to the original author

- **A paraphrase…**
  - about the same length as the original
  - complete restatement of an author's ideas and key supporting details
  - expressed in different words than the original
  - must be credited to the original author

How can you avoid accidental plagiarism when paraphrasing a source?

Completely restate the author's ideas in your own words and sentence structure, and cite the source.

Integrating Sources

- **What does it mean to integrate sources?**
  - Integrating sources involves bringing in information from external sources using quotes, paraphrases, or summaries to support your argument or provide evidence, while maintaining a natural flow in your writing.
- **Why is it important to integrate sources effectively?**
  - Helps strengthen your argument by providing credible support.
  - Demonstrates your engagement with the topic and use of relevant research.
  - Adds depth and perspective to your writing, showing a well-rounded understanding.
- **How can we integrate sources effectively?**
  - Use signal phrases to introduce sources and clarify who the information is from.
  - Choose the appropriate type: Use quotes for impactful language, summaries for big ideas, and paraphrases for detailed but rephrased content.
  - Follow with analysis: Explain how the source material supports or relates to your argument.
  - Maintain citation and attribution: Include in-text citations for each source to give credit and avoid plagiarism.

Signal Phrases

Signal Phrases

- **What are signal phrases?**
  - Signal phrases are short phrases that introduce a quote, paraphrase, or summary and attribute it to its original source.
  - Examples include "According to…," "As stated in…," "[Author] argues that…"
- **Why should we use signal phrases?**
  - They help introduce who or where the information is coming from.
  - They distinguish between multiple sources.
  - They add context, making it clear how the source relates to your point.
  - They enhance the flow of your writing by connecting source material to your argument.
- **How can we use signal phrases effectively?**
  - Use a variety of phrases to avoid repetition (e.g., "suggests," "claims," "notes")
  - Tailor phrases to the source type: use "states" for factual information, "argues" for opinions.
  - Always follow with appropriate in-text citation for the source.
  - If you provide the signal word/phrase in the sentence, you do not need to include it in the parenthetical citation.

According to Kenneth Burke…

As stated in Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (Purdue OWL),...

Signal Phrases and In-Text Citations

Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).

Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).

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Practice

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. University of California Press, 1966.

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (   ).

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. University of California Press, 1966.

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (   ).

Human beings have been described as "symbol-using animals" (Burke 3).

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. University of California Press, 1966.

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (   ).

Burke, Kenneth. *Language as Symbolic Action: Essays on Life, Literature, and Method*. University of California Press, 1966.

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (   ).

Human beings have been described by Kenneth Burke as "symbol-using animals" (3).

Preventing Plagiarism

- **What is plagiarism?**
  - Plagiarism is the act of using someone else's work, ideas, or words without proper acknowledgment, presenting them as your own.
- **Why is it important to avoid plagiarism?**
  - Plagiarism violates academic integrity and can result in serious consequences, such as loss of credit or academic disciplinary action.
  - Avoiding plagiarism demonstrates respect for original authors and strengthens the credibility of your work.
- **How can you avoid plagiarism?**
  - Cite all sources: Provide in-text citations and a Works Cited page for quotes, paraphrases, and summaries.
  - Use your own words: When paraphrasing, completely restate the ideas in your own words and structure, then cite the source.
  - Take thorough notes: Clearly mark when information is from a source, and differentiate it from your own ideas to prevent accidental plagiarism.
  - Visit the Writing Center: For extra support with source integration and citations, book a one-on-one Writing Center appointment.

Works Cited

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Q&A

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Post-Assessment

Helpful Resources

Helpful Resources

NYFA Writing Center:
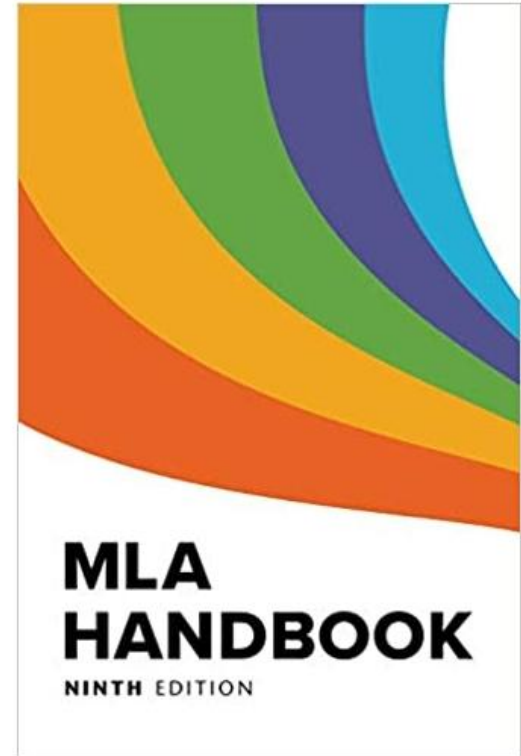- writingcenter.nyfa.edu
- writingcenter@nyfa.edu

NYFA Library:
- hub.nyfa.edu/library
- library@nyfa.edu

Modern Language Association Website:
- [mla.org](mla.org)

Purdue University Online Writing Lab:
- owl.purdue.edu

MLA HANDBOOK

NINTH EDITION

(Modern Language Association)

Questions?

Visit writingcenter.nyfa.edu
Email writingcenter@nyfa.edu