

Source Integration Lesson Notes

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When teaching source integration, I write the following on the board—beginning with headings and then adding to each as we go. I lead a discussion in which we define each option for integrating sources into our writing and identify the pros and cons of each option.

Summary	Paraphrase	Embedded Quotation	Full Quotation	Block Quotation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your words • authors ideas • shorter than original 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your words • authors ideas • roughly same length 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • author’s words • author’s ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • author’s words • author’s ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • author’s words • author’s ideas
<p>In his Gettysburg Address, Abe Lincoln commemorates the battle fought and the lives lost in the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.</p>	<p>Lincoln opens his address by noting that, 87 years earlier, the United States had been founded on the ideas of liberty and equality.</p>	<p>Abe Lincoln states at the beginning of his address that 87 years prior, “our fathers” had founded the United States as a nation “conceived in liberty.”</p>	<p>Abe Lincoln begins his address by saying, “Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.”</p>	<p>Abe Lincoln says:</p> <p>Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.</p>

Talking Points

1. Summary and Paraphrase aren’t truly distinct but lie on a continuum: the more you shorten, the more summary it becomes. However, summary tends to apply to longer passages and entire works, while paraphrase is good for relatively short passages.

2. As you move right on this continuum, you sacrifice your own voice as an author by giving more and more space to another person. However, you also provide more context and detail, increasing your credibility and reducing the chance that you've taking something out of context or altered its meaning.
3. There isn't one right method to always use when incorporating your sources—the context will guide you. You must consider the passage, your audience, and the function of the passage in your text.
4. An essay with no quotations at all is bland and tiresome; one with lots of block and full quotations becomes a "scotch tape essay" in which the author is merely the tape linking quote to quote to quote. I like to think of an essay as scrambled eggs and the use of quotes as the salt and pepper: too much or too little is gross. This also works with ice cream and sprinkles: "Hey man, do you want some ice cream with those sprinkles?"
5. The part that introduces the quotation is often called an "attributive tag." It tells us who is speaking and can also give context, credentials, and connections to other sources. It can come before, during, or after the quote, or a mix of these, or in a separate sentence. The simplest attributive tag is "He said." A better one could be "Abraham Lincoln, our nation's fourteenth president, reminded his listeners about the core principles upon which the United States was founded when he said...."
6. Summaries and paraphrases need attributive tags EVEN MORE than quotations because it's nearly impossible to tell where your ideas end and the source's begin.
7. Plagiarism consists of taking someone's WORDS or someone's IDEAS without giving appropriate credit. As you can see above, in every instance you are using either someone else's words or their ideas (often both), so even summaries and paraphrases need some form of giving credit. This is most often accomplished by giving a citation such as prescribed by MLA or APA, but attributive tags also accomplish this. In fact, without both of these working together, it is often impossible to figure out what is being attributed to whom.