

# Integrating Sources and Quotations into Your Paper

Use your research to back up or support your own ideas. The paper should not be all quotes or even mostly quotations or paraphrasing of the ideas of others. *The paper should be primarily composed of your own ideas and observations, illustrated and strengthened by the research, thoughts, and writings of others.*

**To synthesize evidence, you need to smooth the transitions between your ideas, words, and sentences and those of your sources.**

Original Quote: "A good reporter does not fail to separate opinions from facts. A news agency's reputation often depends on their trustworthiness."

- **Give your reader a context for interpreting the borrowed material**
  - **NO** (*awkward construction*): One editor disagrees with this view and "a good reporter does not fail to separate opinions from facts" (Lyman 52).
  - **YES** (*smoother construction*): One editor disagrees with this view, maintaining that "a good reporter does not fail to separate opinions from facts" (Lyman 52).
- **Pay close attention to verb tenses, capitalization, and pronoun use when inserting quotes into your own sentences. If you need to add words or change the tense of a verb to make the quote fit into your own sentence, place the added or changed words in brackets.**
  - **NO** (*verb form does not match subject*): A bad reporter, Lyman implies, is one who "fail to separate opinion from facts" (Lyman 52).
  - **YES** (*verb form matches subject*): A bad reporter, Lyman implies, is one who "[fails] to separate opinions from facts" (Lyman 52). [The bracketed verb replaces *fail* in the original quotation.]
  - **NO** (*inconsistent capitalization*): The mark of "A good reporter" is the ability "to separate opinions from facts."
  - **YES** (*consistent capitalization*): The mark of "a good reporter" is the ability "to separate opinions from facts."
  - **NO** (*pronoun use leads to confusion*): The reliability of a news organization "depends on their trustworthiness."
  - **Yes** (*pronoun clarified*): The reliability of a news organization "depends on [reporters'] trustworthiness." [The bracketed noun replaces *their* in the original quotation.]

*Don't forget to interpret your quote for the reader. Contextualize the quote Instead of simply throwing the quote into the paper and leaving the reader to draw his or her own conclusions.*

*Why you are including the quote should be made clear to the reader. Does it offer an opposing point of view? Support your own point of view? How did the author of the quote arrive at that point?*

*You may also need to include background information, such as the credentials of the author, in order to establish the credibility of your source.*