Paraphrases require citation

Include citation information for any sources you paraphrase in your research project.

For an overview of related key topics on paraphrasing sources, visit the videos and quizzes in this tutorial.

Explore It

When you incorporate a paraphrase of a passage into your draft, you must include clear information in your text that identifies the source.

The following example presents a student’s paraphrase of a passage from a journal article about gender studies. The student’s paraphrase, written following APA style, includes the author’s name and publication date in parentheses in the in-text citation. APA style also requires that the verbs in the signal phrase be in the past tense.

Original Source

The indie rock men reported using both masculine and feminine typed behaviors when constructing and performing their masculinity on stage and off. One practice they frequently used to construct their alternative masculinity involved drawing upon unconventional male role models.


Paraphrase

Houston (2012) interviewed indie rock males whom she says create identities fusing masculine and feminine behaviors and cite the influence of nontraditional men in their lives as role models.

The in-text citation identifies the author and year of the source (per APA style). The student’s entry for this source on the References page would look like this:

Learn It

As you take notes and create paraphrases that present the key ideas of your sources, you must make sure each paraphrase is accompanied by essential information about the original. With each paraphrase, record the author’s name, title (shortened, if necessary), and page numbers (if relevant). Here are some general guidelines for making sure you cite paraphrases appropriately.

GUIDELINES FOR CITING A PARAPHRASE APPROPRIATELY

• Use a signal phrase—including the source author’s name—in your paper.

• If you are summarizing a passage (rather than an entire work), note the specific page where the idea appears, including the page number for a book or other print source.

• Some sources—including web texts and other media—do not use page numbers. In those cases just name the author.

• If the source doesn't name the author, include the title to identify your source. If the title is long, use only the first word or two.

Depending on your discipline and the documentation style assigned, you will be required to incorporate and cite sources in different ways. If you are working with MLA style, your draft should include the following:

• in-text citations that include author’s name and page number (if the source has page numbers)

• complete citation information for each source used on the Works Cited page

If you are working with APA style, your draft should include the following:

• in-text citations that include author’s name, publication date, and page number

• complete citation information for each source used on the References page

If you are working with Chicago style, your draft should include the following:

• in-text citations that include author’s name and a superscript number referring readers to a note (either a footnote or endnote) on the source

• complete citation information for each source used on the Bibliography page

For any source you plan to use, keep a complete record in your working bibliography, with complete publication information that you will need later. Remember that citing sources is a two-part process. First, you must indicate your source and cite key information within the body of your draft (including parenthetical citation of information, as appropriate). Second, the references in the text of your research project should point readers to the complete entry in your bibliography, on the page labeled Works Cited (in MLA style), References (APA), or Bibliography (Chicago).
Use It

Write a paraphrase of the following paragraph from a report on the effects of school choice in education, written by Herbert J. Walberg. In your paraphrase note, use the documentation style for a current assignment, making sure you include an appropriate citation.

One reason charter schools are so popular is that, according to national surveys, the majority of parents would send their children to private schools if the cost of tuition were not an issue. African-American parents feel particularly strongly about this; a nationally estimated 89 percent would send their children to private schools if tuition were provided. Publicly funded charter schools, since they are privately governed and operated, are naturally appealing to parents who prefer semiprivate to state-run schools.
