

Integrating Sources

Why do we use sources?

- To introduce and frame your ideas and arguments
- To provide evidence for your argument
- To align your argument with an authority and build your ethos

Keep in mind:

- Both direct quotations and paraphrased source material *must* be cited appropriately, according to the required documentation style.
- For example: APA, MLA, Chicago, IEEE, APSA, JEB

Consider your purpose and the needs of your audience.

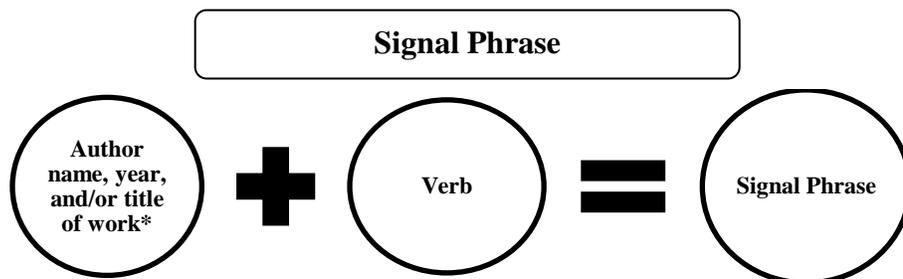
- Use sources to *strengthen* your argument; search for credible and relevant sources using the TAMUCC Library databases, Google Scholar, or other reputable databases/search engines.

Effectively Integrating Sources

When integrating source material (a quote, paraphrase, or summary), avoid “dropping” the quote into your paper without any context or explanation. To avoid dropped quotes, use a signal phrase and/or a “quotation sandwich” to integrate your source material.

Signal Phrase

Using a signal phrase helps you introduce the context, connection, and/or author(s) of the source material.



*The format will vary according to the documentation style you are using (i.e. MLA, APA)

Signal Phrase Examples (using APA documentation style):

Brandt (1998) acknowledges, “Literacy looms as one of the great engines of profit and competitive advantage in the 20th century” (p. 165).

Brandt (1998) asserts that literacy sponsorship has a tremendous influence on an individual’s access to literacy.

Signal Verbs

Note: Depending on the writing style and/or context of the source, these verbs can be used in the present (ending in *s* or *es*) or the past tense (ending in *d* or *ed*).

argue	acknowledge	discuss
state	assert	express
define	claim	object
recognize	counter	propose
illustrate	recommend	describe
report	observe	present
suggest	note	emphasize

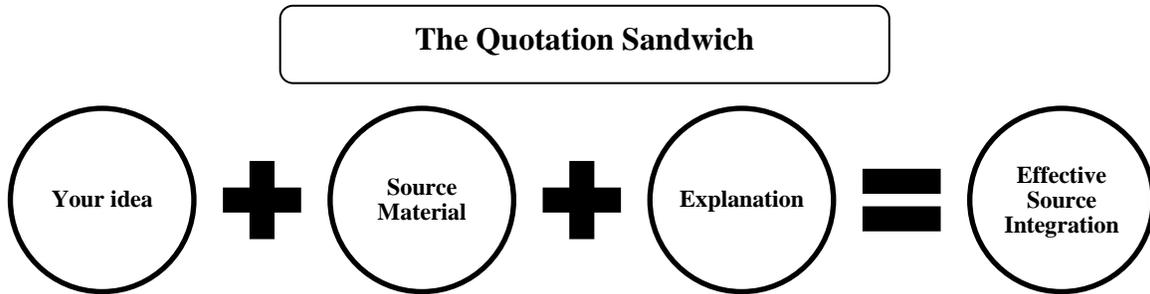
*See our *Common Verbs for Signal Phrases* handout.

Write your own future!

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The Quotation Sandwich

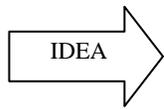
Creating a “quotation sandwich” can help you to integrate sources smoothly and effectively into your writing.



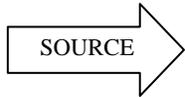
Creating a Quotation Sandwich

1. Begin with your idea.
2. Find a quotation, paraphrase, or summary that connects to your idea.
3. Include an explanation of how this quotation, paraphrase, or summary connects to your idea.

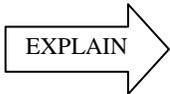
Quotation Sandwich Example (using MLA documentation style):



Literacy experiences play an important role in an individual’s life.



Deborah Brandt, in her article “Sponsors of Literacy,” asserts that “literacy looms as one of the great engines of profit and competitive advantage” (333).



As literacy continues to hold value in society, an individual’s access to literacy can have a significant impact on their future.

The information for this handout was compiled from the following sources:

Boeck, D. (2011). Integrating sources. Paper. Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi.

Brandt, D. (1998). Sponsors of literacy. *College Composition and Communication*, 49(2), 165-185.

Hacker, D., & Sommers, N. (2012). *Rules for writers: Instructor’s edition* (7th ed.). Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

Palmquist, M. (2006). *The Bedford researcher* (2nd ed.). Boston, NY: Bedford/St. Martin’s.

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