

**Integrating Sources**

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| **Why use sources?*** To introduce and frame ideas and arguments
* To provide evidence for an argument
* To align an argument with authority and build credibility
 | **Keep in mind:*** Both direct quotations and paraphrased source material *must* be cited according to the documentation style.
* Documentation Style Examples: APA, MLA, Chicago, IEEE, APSA, JEB, etc.
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**Consider purpose and audience needs:**

* Use sources to *strengthen* the argument.
* Use sources as evidence to *support* claims made in writing.
* Double check to make sure sources are *credible* before using them.
* Need help finding sources? Credible sources can be found on 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 information into the paper without any context or explanation. To avoid dropped quotes, use a signal phrase and/or a “quotation sandwich” to integrate source material.

**Signal Phrase**

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

**Signal Phrase**

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

**Signal Phrase Examples** (APA 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.

argue acknowledge discuss

state assert express

define claim object

recognize counter propose

illustrate recommend describe

report observe present

suggest note emphasize

**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*).

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**Integrating Sources**

**The Quotation Sandwich**

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

**The Quotation Sandwich**

**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** (MLA style):

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

IDEA

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

SOURCE

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

EXPLAIN

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.