Integrating Quotations in APA Style

Quotations can be a valuable way to incorporate expert outside support into your essay, thus helping you prove your points. It's important to integrate quotations into your essay in a way that maintains the flow of your sentences and ideas. All information about citations comes from the *APA Manual, 6th edition.*

**Quoting Sources Directly (p. 170-72)**

When using another author’s words in your paper, always include the author, year, and page number. There are several ways to structure a sentence to include all of this information:

- Beer drinking has been a popular social activity for thousands of years – "since the Egyptians first fermented grain along the banks of the Nile, beer has been a part of almost every society" (Williams, 2007, p. 65).

- In his book on the history of beer, Paul Williams (2007) writes that “since the Egyptians first fermented grain along the banks of the Nile, beer has been a part of almost every society" (p. 65).

- In a 2007 anthropological study, Paul Williams determined that “since the Egyptians first fermented grain along the banks of the Nile, beer has been a part of almost every society" (p. 65).

If the source you are working with does not have page numbers (as is the case with many websites), the APA Manual recommends using paragraph numbers:

- Diet instructions for cancer patients often “emphasize real food and minimize known carcinogens, like charred meat and alcohol” (Fortune, 2010, para. 2).

**Altering the Source Material (p. 172-73)**

If you need to change the first letter of the first word of the quotation or alter the punctuation mark at the end to fit the syntax of your own sentence, you may do so without noting it in the text. All other alterations need to be marked:

- To omit material (without changing the meaning of the source), use ellipses (…)
  
  “When people are in a group, in other words, responsibility for acting is diffused. They assume that someone else will make the call, or they assume that because no one else is acting, the apparent problem … isn’t really a problem” (Gladwell, 2002, p. 28).

- To insert material (as in a brief explanation), use square brackets [ ]
  

- To add emphasis, italicize the word or words, then write [emphasis added]
  
  Zimbardo sought to “find out why prisons are such nasty places. Was it because prisons are full of nasty people, or was it because prisons are such nasty environments [emphasis added] that they make people nasty?” (Gladwell, 2002, p. 153).
Quoting Secondary (Indirect) Sources (p. 178)
The APA Manual advises you to “use secondary sources sparingly, when the original work is out of print, unavailable through usual sources, or not available in English.” Name the original source and cite the secondary source:

Allport’s diary (as cited in Nicholson, 2003) proves his involvement in the political intrigues of the day.

Block Quotations (p. 171)
If the quote you are using is 40 or more words in length, begin the quote on a new line indented half an inch from the left margin and omit the quotation marks. Cite the material at the end after the period.

A dissenting view notes that:

Marriage is an anachronism. It is a relic from a time when we needed an arrangement to manage property and reproduction and, crucially, to establish kinships for purposes of defense: safety in numbers. A web of families connected through marriage produced a clan of people who were less likely to kill you than everybody else was. (Levy, 2010, p. 76)

Though here the quotation is single-spaced to make more room on the handout, you should double space a block quotation in your paper the same as you would the rest of the text.

Integrating Quoted Material with Your Own Writing
Now that you understand the mechanics of referencing another author in your paper, let’s examine some ways to merge the information from an outside source smoothly into your own writing. First, let’s look at a rather awkward example:

Andy Warhol was a twentieth-century American artist. “He made art that did not look like art” (Menand, 2010, p. 57). This is why his art was and still is popular.

The quote is relevant and cited correctly, but it is disconnected from the text around it. It “floats” there in the paragraph without context.


The overall idea here is to integrate your quotations in ways that create flow and do not confuse the reader. Some things to keep in mind:

- Mentioning the name of the author or the publication in which the quote appears can add context to the quotation and credibility to your writing.
- Using introductory phrases such as “according to…” will not only set up the quote well, but will also add variation to your sentence structure.
- Be familiar with “annotation verbs” (alternatives to *says*) such as *states, explains, confirms, emphasizes*, etc. A longer list is available at the end of James Harner’s *On Compiling an Annotated Bibliography*. 

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