

Integrating Sources into Your Writing

In your writing, you should try to smoothly integrate external sources into your own work. You can do this by **weaving in your summaries, paraphrases and / or quotes into your own work** and creating a balance between the sources you use and your own knowledge and explanation to analyze a concept.

To synthesize sources effectively, you must

- establish context for the source used,
- show the relevance of each source to your own argument,
- create connections between seemingly unrelated sources, and
- use your own interpretation to explain to the reader the importance or necessity of the source.

Remember

- Use the sources you have found to **complement** and **support** your idea.
- Do not let the source (summarized, paraphrased and/or quoted) make the argument for you. It is supposed to lend credibility to your argument, not argue on your behalf!
- Interpret the material you chose to summarize, paraphrase or quote. You must explain how the source adds support to your idea.
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To integrate your sources effectively, make sure that your paragraphs PEEL:

P	Point	This is your point, presented via your topic sentence and subsequent subtopic sentences to clarify your idea(s).
E	Explain	These are the sentences used to explain your own point by noting various details and ideas. These sentences serve to further the readers' understanding of your topic sentence.
E	Expand	This is the point in your paragraph where you will use outside sources to back up your point and explanation. You can use outside sources, as noted above, via summaries, paraphrases, or quotations. Make sure you cite those sources.
L	Link	This is where you would link the source you used and your original point. By creating a link between the source and the link, you are helping to integrate the source into your own writing and cementing your position and opinion by using your own "voice" rather than the "voice" of your source.