



## APA FORMAT QUOTATIONS

Adapted from *A Writer's Reference*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition, by Diana Hacker and Nancy Sommers

In academic writing, we emphasize our own ideas by paraphrasing or summarizing information from other sources and then analyzing that information in our own words. Direct quotations are most effective when a writer wants to

- add authority to an argument
- explain technical concepts
- include especially vivid or powerful language
- analyze the language of a source.

Avoid dropping quotations into a paper without introduction. Prepare the reader for the borrowed material with a brief introduction, often called a *signal phrase*. The signal phrase usually names the author of the source and provides some context for the quote. APA style generally refers to authors by *last name only*. It also uses past tense or present perfect tense verbs (*found* or *has found*) except when drawing conclusions from data or discussing the results of your research. Use a variety of signal phrases and sentence constructions to make your writing more interesting.

### Common Signal Phrase Verbs

acknowledged	claimed	explained	reasoned
added	commented	found	reported
agreed	compared	noted	responded
argued	confirmed	observed	stated
asserted	emphasized	pointed out	suggested

### Short Quotations

Integrate quotations of *less than forty words* into a paper with a signal phrase including the author's name and the year of publication. Double space the quoted text and enclose it in quotation marks. Follow the quotation with the page number in parentheses *before* the end punctuation. (Note: for sources without page numbers, there will be no parenthetical citation if the author and date have already been introduced in the signal phrase.) Writers do not always need to quote full sentences from a source. You can choose the most important parts and integrate them into your own sentence.

**Example**

Gladwell (2008) claimed that successful people have “hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot” (p. 19).

**Long/Block Quotations**

Set off a quotation of *forty or more words* by indenting it one-half inch (five spaces or one tab) from the left margin. Continue double spacing but do not use quotation marks. Integrate the long quotation into the paper by introducing it with an informative sentence followed by a colon. Follow the quotation with a parenthetical citation one space *after* the end punctuation. (For sources without page numbers, there will be no parenthetical citation if the author and date have already been introduced in the signal phrase.)

**Example**

Gladwell (2008) argued persuasively that success is more than an individual accomplishment:

People don't rise from nothing. We do owe something to parentage and patronage. The people who stand before kings may look like they did it all by themselves. But in fact they are invariably the beneficiaries of hidden advantages and extraordinary opportunities and cultural legacies that allow them to learn and work hard and make sense of the world in ways others cannot. (p. 19)

Corresponding References page entry:

Gladwell, M. (2008). *Outliers: The story of success*. New York: Little, Brown.