

Controlling Quotations

Using a source's exact words is easy. Incorporating them with your own words, however, can be difficult and even risky. How can you seamlessly weave other authors' voices into your paper and at the same time make it clear who said what? Here are some tips to help you (Ballenger, 2012). (Note: The first two examples below use APA style, and the final two use MLA style. As always, be sure to cite page numbers when you point to specific parts of a source.)

Sandwiching. Sandwiching involves introducing a quote (who said it, and when or where) and then, after quoting, following up the quotation with your own words relating the quote to the discussion in your paper.

The affects of partisan research extend beyond the lab or university to the public, and with cancerous effects: As social psychologist Jonathan Haidt (2012) has observed, "now that we all have access to search engines on our cell phones, we can call up a team of supportive scientists for almost any conclusion twenty-four hours a day" (p. 85). Indeed, partisan research has made it easy for motivated readers to believe or disregard whatever they want.

Splicing. To shed unnecessary words from a quote, splice together the pieces you need. Use ellipsis points (. . .) in place of words you omit. If you need to add a comment or clarification within the quotation marks, place brackets ([]) around the addition.

Haidt (2012) further quips, "Whatever you want to believe . . . , just Google your belief. You'll find partisan websites summarizing and sometimes distorting relevant scientific studies. Science [or research in general] is a smorgasbord, and Google will guide you to the study that's right for you" (p. 85).

Grafting. Graft a quote if you want to use just one important word or phrase from a source. Be sure to match the source's sentence structure so that the graft reads seamlessly.

Haidt's quip that "science is a smorgasbord" (85) is, of course, his way of satirizing the attitude of self-interested researchers in any arena.

Billboarding. To emphasize a particular part of a quote, "billboard" it by italicizing the word or phrase. You'll also need to note that you are the one, not the original author, who is adding the italics.

Self-interested researchers share the blame, of course, for their piece of the problem. But Haidt also seems to implicate Google, or, perhaps, the general ease of finding misinformation on the Internet, when he says, "just *Google* your belief" and "*Google* will guide you to the study that's right for you" (85, my emphasis).

References

- Ballenger, B. (2012). *The curious researcher* (7th ed.). New York: Longman.
- Haidt, J. (2012). *The righteous mind: Why good people are divided by politics and religion*. New York: Pantheon.