



USING SOURCES

What Does It Mean to Use a Source?

Using a source means including information from another writer and connecting it to your own ideas. Strong writing combines your voice with outside information.

Ways to Use Sources

Quoting

A quote uses the exact words from a source. Use quotation marks.

Example:

According to Blankstein and Wolff-Eisenberg, "Students...defined success as more than just the attainment of a degree or credential."

Use when:

- the wording is important
- the author's phrasing is powerful or specific

Paraphrasing

A paraphrase restates the idea in your own words.

Example:

According to Blankstein and Wolff-Eisenberg, students often define success in broader ways than just earning a degree.

Use when:

- you want to simplify or clarify
- you want the idea in your own voice

Summarizing

A summary gives a short overview of a larger idea.

Example:

Research shows that students view success as more than earning a degree, including their skills and overall experience.

Use when:

- you only need the main idea
- details are not necessary

Introducing Sources

It's important to introduce your source so your reader knows where the idea comes from.

Example:

According to Blankstein and Wolff-Eisenberg in their article "Holistic Student Success," students define success in ways that go beyond earning a degree.

Tip: The first time you introduce a source, include the author's name and some context. After that, you can usually refer to the author by last name only.

Explaining Sources (Analysis)

Analysis means explaining your source and showing why it is important.

Example:

According to Blankstein and Wolff-Eisenberg, students define success as more than earning a degree. This shows that students value personal growth and their overall experience, not just completing a program.

However, don't let your source stand alone. Take this one step further and always explain why it matters.

Example:

According to Blankstein and Wolff-Eisenberg, students define success as more than just earning a degree. Many students also value the skills they develop and their experiences in college. This shows that student success includes personal growth as well as academic achievement.

Quick Tips

- Introduce your source
- Use quotes, paraphrases, or summaries as needed
- Always explain your sources
- Keep your own ideas clear