

# Examples of Using Direct Quotes, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing

## Word for word quotation (direct quote):

Definition: Using an author's language word for word (verbatim)

Ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Use quotation marks around the author's words.
- Use a signal or identifying phrase that tells who and what you are quoting.
- Add an in-text (parenthetical) reference at the end of the passage.
- Include a citation at the end of your paper (Works Cited).

### **MLA Example:**

Rodriguez and Bellanca observe, "In some urban classrooms, children arrive without any notion of sharing behavior. If they have grown up as street survivors, without strong early mediation for sharing, they may come to school ready to do battle to the death" (135).

Or

"In some urban classrooms, children arrive without any notion of sharing behavior. If they have grown up as street survivors, without strong early mediation for sharing, they may come to school ready to do battle to the death" (Rodriguez and Bellanca 135).

Include on your Works Cited page:

Rodriguez, Eleanor Renee, and James Bellanca. What Is It About Me You Can't Teach?: An Instructional Guide for the Urban Educator. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin, 2007.

## Paraphrasing:

Definition: Putting an author's ideas in your own words

Ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Use a signal or identifying phrase that tells who and what you are paraphrasing
- Use the same ideas as in the original text
- Use your own words when phrasing. In most cases, avoid using any of the same wording that the author used unless you put a key term in quotation marks.
- Add an in-text (parenthetical) reference at the end of the paraphrase.
- Include a citation at the end of your paper (Works Cited).

### **MLA Example:**

Original passage:

Annie Oakley's life spanned years of tremendous change for American women. By the time of her death in 1926, Americans were celebrating the liberated, urban-focused, modern times of the Jazz Age. Women had won the right to vote, wore less restrictive clothes, and followed a changing ideal that was loosening some of the restrictions on women's roles and behavior that had reigned through the nineteenth century.

### Incorrect paraphrasing:

Annie Oakley's life spanned years of significant changes for American women. By the time she died in 1926, women had the vote, wore looser clothing, and embraced the freedom from restrictive 19<sup>th</sup> century roles and behaviors.

(Sounds too much like the original passage. Also the sentence structure is too similar to the original text.)

### Correct paraphrasing:

As discussed in the biography on PBS's American Experience web page, sharpshooter Annie Oakley lived through a period of many liberating changes for women, from the Victorian era through the first quarter of the 20th century. Examples include voting rights for women as well as the freedom to wear comfortable and practical clothing (Annie Oakley).

Include on your Works Cited page:

"Annie Oakley: In a Man's World." American Experience. 2006. PBS Online. 19 May 2008. <[http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/oakley/sfeature/sf\\_excerpts.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/oakley/sfeature/sf_excerpts.html)>.

## **Summarizing:**

Definition: Condensing an author's ideas to a more succinct statement

Ways to avoid plagiarism:

- Use a signal or identifying phrase that tells who and what you are summarizing.
- Use a quick description of the main points of the passage.
- Use your own words and phrasing. In most cases, avoid using any of the same wording.
- Add an in-text (parenthetical) reference at the end of the summary.
- Include a citation at the end of your paper (Works Cited).

### ***MLA Example:***

#### Original passage:

By 1964, there were an estimated 33,500 restaurants in the United States calling themselves "drive-ins," but only 24,500 offered hot food, the remainder being ice cream and soft-drink stands primarily. Layout varied from drive-in to drive-in, but three principal spaces could always be found: a canopy-covered driveway adjacent to the building, a kitchen, and a carhop station linking kitchen and parking lot. The smallest drive-ins offered carhop service only, but many also featured indoor lunch counters and booths, sometimes on the scale of the coffee shop.

#### Summary:

In the chapter "Quick-Service Restaurants in the Age of Automobile Convenience," The authors note that by the mid-1960s, nearly 35,000 self-proclaimed "drive-in" restaurants in the United States existed. Most served hot meals while others served just ice cream

and soft drinks. No specific blueprint defined the typical drive-in; however, three characteristics describe this new type of casual eating establishment: a covered driveway, a kitchen, and a carhop station (Jackle and Sculle 55).

Include on your Works Cited page:

Jackle, John A., and Keith A. Sculle. Fast Food: Roadside Restaurants in the Automobile Age. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1999.

## **Common knowledge:**

Definition: A fact that is so well known that it can be found in numerous sources and therefore does not need to be cited.

### ***Examples of common knowledge:***

The state bird of California is the California Quail.

The Dodo has been extinct since the mid-to-late 17th century.

The red-tailed hawk lives in the Livermore area.

### ***Examples of detailed information that needs to be cited:***

Adult quail begin to molt their plumage in mid-summer, while the chicks are being reared (Leopold 105).

The primary causes of the Dodo's extinction were the destruction of the forest (which cut off the Dodo's food supply), and the animals that the sailors brought with them, including cats, rats, and pigs, which destroyed Dodo nests (Dodo).

Most of the Red-tailed Hawk migration in the western United States occurs from early October to early November (Liguori 42).

Include on your Works Cited page:

"Dodo." American Museum of Natural History. 19 May 2008.  
<[http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/expeditions/treasure\\_fossil/Treasures/Dodo/dodo.html?dinos](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/expeditions/treasure_fossil/Treasures/Dodo/dodo.html?dinos)>.

Leopold, A. Starker. The California Quail. Berkeley, CA: UC Press, 1977, 105.

Liguori, Jerry. Hawks from Every Angle. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2005, 42.

## **More Help with Citations:**

[LPC Citation Style Guides](#)

[Other examples of parenthetical documentation](#)