

Searching for Sources

There are numerous possible sources for your writing, yet only few can provide you with a comprehensive list of sources.

- Library holds
- Scholarly databases
- Articles and books

Avoid:

- reference works and general encyclopedias
- Popular articles and newspapers

Evaluating Sources

While many sources might seem professional or well-written, you have to evaluate them carefully in order to decide whether a given source should be used or not.

Relevance:

- Is it relevant to my subject?
- Is the source appropriately specialized?
- Is the source recent?

Reliability:

- Where does the source come from?
- Is the author an expert in the field?
- What is the author's bias?
- Is the source fair and reasonable?
- Is the source well written?

Exercise: Look at the following website (no 1.) and the following article (no. 2) and try to find out what might be problematic about the sources.

- 1) <http://www.mirena-us.com/index.php>
- 2) <http://www.greenisthenewred.com/blog/tag/shac-7/>

Questions and Answers on Global Warming

1. Is global warming occurring? Have the forecasts of global warming been confirmed by actual measurements?

There is no serious evidence that man-made global warming is taking place. The computer models used in U.N. studies say the first area to heat under the "greenhouse gas effect" should be the lower atmosphere - known as the troposphere. 1 Highly accurate, carefully checked satellite data have shown absolutely no such tropospheric warming. There has been surface warming of about half a degree Celsius, but this is far below the customary natural swings in surface temperatures. 2

2. Are carbon dioxide emissions from burning fossil fuels the primary cause of climate change? Can the Earth's temperature be expected to rise between 2.5 and 10.4 degrees Fahrenheit in this century as has been reported?

There are many indications that carbon dioxide does not play a significant role in global warming. Richard Lindzen, Ph.D., professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and one of the 11 scientists who prepared a 2001 National Academy of Sciences (NAS) report on climate change, estimates that a doubling of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere would produce a temperature increase of only one degree Celsius. 3 In fact, clouds and water vapor appear to be far more important factors related to global temperature. According to Dr. Lindzen and NASA scientists, clouds and water vapor may play a significant role in regulating the Earth's temperature to keep it more constant. 4

Assertions about the validity and causes of global warming, citing data and expert opinion as evidence

Footnotes

1 James K. Glassman and Sallie Baliunas, *The Weekly Standard*, June 25, 2001.

2 *Ibid.*

3 Richard Lindzen, professor of meteorology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and member of the National Academy of Sciences, "Scientists' Report Doesn't Support The Kyoto Treaty," *The Wall Street Journal*, June 11, 2001.

4 Glassman and Baliunas.

Footnotes citing an article in the conservative magazine *The Weekly Standard* and a newspaper report, not scholarly publications that explain methods of gathering and interpreting the data used as evidence

Synthesizing Sources

- respond to sources
- connect sources
- heed your own insights
- use sources to support your own ideas

Using Sources

Summary: to condense an idea or argument into a sentence or more using your own words

- most useful when you wish to get to the gist of an author's idea without too much background or evidence.

Adapted from: Fowler, Henry Ramsey; Aaron, Jane E., and Janice Okoomian. *The Little, Brown Handbook*. 10th ed. New York: Longman. 2007.

"Editing and Proofreading." The Writing Center. *UNC College of Arts & Sciences*. <<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/editing-and-proofreading/>>.

"Evaluating Sources: Overview." *Purdue OWL*. <<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/01/>>.

Look at the quotation below from Larry Irving, “The Still-Yawning Divide” (*Newsweek* 64) and the summary following it.

Internet access is affecting our everyday lives in important ways, from how we shop to how we define the notion of community. Yet the digital divide between the information haves and have-nots is still very wide, especially between households of high and low income and between whites and minorities. Although competition will continue to drive down the cost of technology, and corporations and educational institutions will continue to bring people online, the market, private enterprise, and local governments cannot seal the divide by themselves. The federal government must assume leadership in ensuring that all Americans have the access and skills they need to participate fully in the digital age.

Summary

Irving 64

The US government must take the leading role in closing the technology gap between income levels and races/ethnic groups.

Paraphrasing: you follow more closely the author’s original presentation of ideas, but at the same time you use your own words:

original	paraphrase
Internet access is affecting our everyday lives in important ways, from how we shop to how we define the notion of community.	Significant areas of daily life are changing because of online communication,
Yet the digital divide between the information haves and have-nots is still very wide, especially between household of high and low income and between whites and minorities.	but many people, particularly the poor and nonwhite, are being left behind by this change.

Quoting: to provide an **exact** quotation of the words used by the original author

- provide the page! (you can use [] (square brackets), . . . (ellipsis marks)).

Exercise 1: Provide a summary of the entire following paragraph AND then paraphrase the first four sentences.

Federal organization [of the United States] has made it possible for the different states to deal with the same problems in many different ways. One consequence of federalism, then, has been that people are treated differently, by law, from state to state. The great strength of this system is that differences from state to state in cultural preferences, moral standards, and levels of wealth can be accommodated. In contrast to a unitary system in which the central government makes all important decisions (as in France), federalism is a powerful arrangement for maximizing regional freedom and autonomy. The great weakness of our federal system, however, is that people in some state receive less than the best or the most advanced or the least expensive services and policies that government can offer. The federal dilemma does not invite easy solutions, for the costs and benefits of the arrangement have tended to balance out.

- Peter K. Eisinger et al., *American Politics*, page 44

Exercise 2: Combine a paraphrase and direct quotation to state the main idea of the passage below.

Most speakers unconsciously duel even during seemingly casual conversations, as can often be observed at social gatherings where they show less concern for exchanging information with other guests than for asserting their own dominance. Their verbal dueling often employs very subtle weapons like mumbling, a hostile act which defeats the listener's desire to understand what the speaker claims he is trying to say (but is really not saying because he is mumbling!). Or the verbal dueler may keep talking after someone has passed out of hearing range—which is often an aggressive challenge to the listener to return and acknowledge the dominance of the speaker.

- Peter K. Farb, *Word Play*, page 107

Using Sources in the Text

- You will have to modify your writing a little bit in order to accommodate your sources into your paper. A poorly accommodated sentence can be distracting and confusing.
- **Awkward:** One editor disagrees with this view and “a good reporter does not fail to separate opinions from facts” (Lyman 52)
- In the following revision the writer adds words to integrate the quotation into her sentence:
- **Revised:** One editor disagrees with this view, maintaining that “a good reporter does not fail to separate opinions from facts” (Lyman 52).

Alterations of quotations:

You may need to substitute or add some text to the quotation in order to incorporate the source's words into your own; changes to the original text are usually signaled with brackets.

Words added: “The tabloids [of England] are a journalistic case study in bad reporting,” claims Lyman (52).

Verb form changed: A bad reporter, Lyman implies, is one who “[fails] to separate opinions from facts” (52). [The sentence originally used *fail*.]

Capitalization changed: “[T]o separate opinions from facts” is a goal of good reporting (Lyman 52).

Noun instead of pronoun: The reliability of a news organization “depends on [reporters’] trustworthiness,” says Lyman (52). [The sentence originally used *their*.]

Documenting Sources

- **Plagiarism**” (from a Latin word for “kidnapper”) is the presentation of someone else’s ideas or words as your own. Whether deliberate or accidental, plagiarism is a serious offence. Plagiarism can also be using the same phrases without indicating you are using the same phrases!

Original: “The character and mentality of the keepers may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of the kept.”

Plagiarism: But **the character** of prison officials (**the keepers**) is more important in **understanding prisons than the character** of prisoners (**the kept**).

Revision: According to one critic of the penal system, “The character and mentality of the keepers may be of more importance in understanding prisons than the character and mentality of the kept” (**Mitford 9**).

Works Cited

There are numerous ways of listing the works you cite in your writing, therefore the formatting you see below is merely one of the several formats you may use. However, you **must** provide the source of your argument in a way that **clearly identifies** the original source.

Surname, Name. “Title of the Article.” *Book Title* (can be also underlined). City of publishing, publishing house. Year of publication.

Surname, Name. “Title of the Article.” *Website*. Website company. Year of publication. (Basic) URL.

Mravenec, Ferda. “How I Met Ladybug.” *My Life in the Anthill*. Mravenecov, Kosmas. 2014.

Adapted from: Fowler, Henry Ramsey; Aaron, Jane E., and Janice Okoomian. *The Little, Brown Handbook*. 10th ed. New York: Longman. 2007.

“Editing and Proofreading.” The Writing Center. *UNC College of Arts & Sciences*. <<http://writingcenter.unc.edu/handouts/editing-and-proofreading/>>.

“Evaluating Sources: Overview.” *Purdue OWL*. <<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/01/>>.

Recognizing plagiarism:

I would agree with the sociologists that psychiatric labeling is dangerous. Society can inflict terrible wounds by discrimination, and by confusing health with disease and disease with badness.

—George E. Vaillant, *Adaptation to Life*, p. 361

1. According to George Vaillant, society often inflicts wounds by using psychiatric labeling, confusing health, disease, and badness (361).
2. According to George Vaillant, “psychiatric labeling [such as ‘homosexual’ or ‘schizophrenic’] is dangerous. Society can inflict terrible wounds by . . . confusing health with disease and disease with badness” (361).
3. According to George Vaillant, when psychiatric labeling discriminates between health and disease or between disease and badness, it can inflict wounds on those labeled (361).
4. Psychiatric labels can badly hurt those labeled, says George Vaillant, because they fail to distinguish among health, illness, and immorality (361).
5. Labels such as “homosexual” and “schizophrenic” can be hurtful when they fail to distinguish among health, illness, and immorality.
6. “I would agree with the sociologists that society can inflict terrible wounds by discrimination, and by confusing health with disease and disease with badness” (Vaillant 361).