Using sources

ANU Academic Skills
ANU Academic Skills
Helping you to achieve academic success!

Peer Writers
- Ask us a quick question
- 10-15 min drop-ins
- Face-to-face or via Zoom
- During semester, Mon-Fri 11am to 1pm

Writing Coaches
- Check you're on the right track
- 30 min booked appointments
- Face-to-face or via Zoom
- Written feedback also offered
- During semester, Mon - Fri 10am to 4pm

Learning Advisers
- Excel in your research writing
- 45 min booked appointments
- Face-to-face or via Zoom
- Written feedback also offered
- Throughout the year, Mon - Fri 10am to 5pm
Workshop coverage

• Why use academic sources in your work?
• How? Ways to legitimately incorporate others’ ideas and with academic integrity
• Showing your critical analysis
• Developing writer stance and voice
Using academic sources

helps you to develop a persuasive and reasoned argument

Argue from a position of authority
Using academic sources shows

a) evidence of scholarly research
b) your critical understanding of the source and its significance for your work
c) how you are supporting your argument / key message
Research of academic sources = Supporting evidence
Ways to incorporate sources into your writing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</table>
| Summarise | • Succinctly explain someone’s argument using your own words  
             • Use to capture the essence of an argument by so focusing on the main ideas only         |
| Paraphrase | • Explain someone’s idea in detail using your own words  
                     • Use when you need to provide specific detail/evidence of an author’s argument              |
| Quote  | • Copy others’ words exactly  
                     • Use sparingly when you want to highlight a key idea or key researcher/scholar            |
| Synthesise | • Combine multiple sources that have a similar argument  
                     • Use to summarise multiples sources or to strengthen your argument                           |
What do you find challenging about incorporating others’ voices into your own work?

What would you like to do better?
Summary vs paraphrase

Both involve rewriting someone else's idea(s) in your own words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Paraphrase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Usually taken from a much longer piece of</td>
<td>• Usually one idea from the text</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>text</td>
<td>• Usually around the same length as the original</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Much shorter than the original text</td>
<td>• Uses some of the important terminology but wording and order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Covers the main point of what the original</td>
<td>are changed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>author is saying / arguing.</td>
<td></td>
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Paraphrasing is harder to do correctly!
Summarise

When you wish to provide a concise overview of a source.

• Pull out main ideas and restate them succinctly in your own words:
  • What is the study about (study’s research question or aims)?
  • What did the author find or is arguing? Why?
Whilst asynchronous methods have been researched and compared for 50 years, there remains limited understanding of how to avoid processor idle time (Avron, Druinsky & Gupta 2015).
Writing extended summaries

For longer summaries or sustained discussion of a source, Swales and Feak (2004, p. 168) suggest using “summary reminder phrases”. For example:

- “The author goes on to say that…
- The article further states that…
- (Author’s surname here) concludes that…”

You could also use connecting words: additionally, moreover etc.
Paraphrase

To provide specific detail/evidence from the source

• When paraphrasing:
  • use some important terminology but change sentence structure and wording
  • keep the meaning of the ideas
When paraphrasing, it’s important not to closely follow the wording and sentence structure of the original text.

Original

• These photographs aim to highlight aspects of the environment that may be ignored. Through documenting small, everyday details of my immediate environment, I aim to call attention to these often overlooked elements of country. A way of appreciating and noticing the environment on the trip to the Bundian Way, for me, was to be present and to pause. The use of a medium format film camera allowed me to do this, as it takes a lot of time and care to set up one photograph.

Paraphrase

• Axelsen’s photographs highlight environmental features that are often ignored. By chronicling minor details of her everyday surrounds, she draws attention to neglected features of these settings. Using a medium format film camera allowed the artist to be present in the moment and to pause, due to the time and care needed to set up a single photograph.
Aim to capture the essence of the author’s ideas in your own words

Original

• These photographs aim to highlight aspects of the environment that may be ignored. Through documenting small, everyday details of my immediate environment, I aim to call attention to these often overlooked elements of country. A way of appreciating and noticing the environment on the trip to the Bundian Way, for me, was to be present and to pause. The use of a medium format film camera allowed me to do this, as it takes a lot of time and care to set up one photograph.

Paraphrase

• Axelsen’s work focuses on easily neglected features of her environment. The time-consuming process of using a medium format film camera contributed to the artistic process, as it required the photographer to pause between shots and notice her surrounds. 3
Read

Have a purpose/question

Take notes

Identify key ideas and reorder them
Critically engage

Have a systematic approach

Write

Change terms and order, keep technical terms
1. Focus on your assignment task when researching and reading

Can blockchain technology (BT) provide an opportunity for a more secure and private internet?

Analysing the question:
• How secure is blockchain technology?
• What mechanisms does it have to ensure security?
• What possible threats does it pose?
2. Identify ideas/information relevant to the question

Original:
In the case of public BT, transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible. However, no solution for transaction privacy is perfect.

3. As you write your notes, pick out the key ideas and change the phrasing

Original:
In the case of public BT, transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible. However, no solution for transaction privacy is perfect.

Key points:
- BT transactions not directly linked to user but are kept in a public ledger
- Patterns in user transactions can be detected and this can link to a particular user
- BT provides transparency and decentralization
- BT appears secure but no solution is perfect

According to Hasanova et al. (2019, p. 25) whilst BT technologies promise privacy and security, it is possible to trace a user by observing the pattern of transactions they make.
In the case of public BT, transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible.

<table>
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<th>Notes</th>
<th>Paraphrased sentence</th>
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| In the case of public BT, transactions may appear private because they are not directly tied to a user identity. However, they are recorded in a public ledger. Thus, transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address. A major contribution of BT is the degree of transparency and decentralization that it provides along with an adequate level of security and privacy that was previously deemed impossible. | • BT provides transparency and decentralization  
• BT transactions not directly linked to user but are kept in a public ledger  
• Patterns in user transactions can be detected and this can link to a particular user  
• BT appears secure but no solution is perfect | According to Hasanova et al. (2019, p. 25) whilst BT technologies promise privacy and security, it is possible to trace a user by observing the pattern of transactions they make. |
Check list

• Compare what you have written to the original:
  • Have you conveyed the same meaning?
  • Used different words?
  • Changed the original sentence structure?
  • Provided a citation in accordance with your given or chosen style?
Turnitin practice site

Shows the matching text in the original source

Click here to swap views between the originality report and marker's comments

Overall similarity percentage. It is meaningless by itself – you need to check each text match.

Colour-coded detail about sources that match
Use Turnitin to check your work

BT systems have some major privacy limitations because transaction patterns can be observed. This will link a user identity to an address (Hasanova et al. 2019).

Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25) argue that although BT transactions appear private, “transaction patterns can be seen, and it is possible to match a user identity to an address”.

According to Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25) whilst BT technologies promise privacy and security, it is possible to trace a user by observing the pattern of transactions they make.

Correctly paraphrased and referenced
A good summary paragraph often incorporates some paraphrasing and selective quoting, if appropriate.
Blockchain technology offers opportunities for increasing security and privacy on the internet but there are some serious limitations. Blockchain technology has opened up a potential way of conducting transactions where less personal information needs to be shared (Bauerle nd). Researchers such as Zyskind, Nathan and Pentland (2015) suggest that by removing third parties from the transaction, blockchain provides an opportunity for users to have better control and ownership over their own data. However, critics caution that there are some serious challenges in terms of accountability when machines control transactions (Hutton 2017). Moreover, there are a number of ways in which the security of blockchain transactions can be compromised such as code-based attacks, double spending and dust attacks (Bradbury 2013). Hasanover et al. (2019, p. 25), point out “transaction patterns can be observed, and it is possible to link a user identity to an address”. Additionally, Bassina and Kasra (2017) highlight a key flaw in the security blockchain technology where privacy keys can be lost, just like real currency. It is early days but analysis so far is indicating that there may be a number of issues that need to be considered before there is wider adoption of blockchain technology.
Quote selectively...

• When the original text is well written and the key point would be difficult to reword

• Most effective when you wish to:
  • draw attention to an author’s definition of a key term
  • critically evaluate the meanings attached to specific words or phrases
  • and/or to demonstrate the essence of their argument.
Quotes must

• match the original exactly
  • so recreate the exact spelling, capitalisation, punctuation, and font style (e.g. italics, bolding, underlining).

• be formatted correctly

• include a citation + page number

Make sure to introduce the quote and explain what the quote means
Selective quoting

Gerber and Offit (2009) convincingly argue against another popular theory that vaccines overwhelm children’s immune systems. They draw on 20 epidemiological and biological studies from around the world that have consistently found no evidence in support of these claims that vaccines cause autism. They therefore conclude that it’s “biologically implausible” (Gerber & Offit 2009, p. 458) that vaccines weaken the immune system, and that “[a]utism is not an immune-meditated disease” to begin with (p. 460).
Indent and introduce long quotes

Although the formula bad painting/ good art was codified during the 1970s with Maria Tucker’s ‘Bad’ Painting exhibition, the painting/ art distinction is especially prevalent a decade before with the development of non-traditional mediums and conceptual approaches. In the American context, Joseph Kosuth presented this as the logical next step in modernist reflexivity, famously writing:

> Being an artist now means to question the nature of art. If one is questioning the nature of painting, one cannot be questioning the nature of art. If an artist accepts painting (or sculpture) he is accepting the tradition that goes with it. That’s because the word art is general and the word painting is specific. Painting is a kind of art. If you make paintings you are already accepting (not questioning) the nature of art. One is then accepting the nature of art to be the European tradition of a painting-sculture dichotomy.[FN]

**Quotations – modifications (Chicago in-text)**

**Square brackets - [ ]**
As Leverett and Bingbing (2017, 114) point out, “It [the People’s Republic] certainly did not like Cold War bipolarity.”

**Elipses - ...**
Leverett and Bingbing (2017, 111-112) argue that “One Belt, One Road manifests a grand strategic logic...oriented not toward replacing US hegemony with Chinese hegemony but toward cultivating a more multipolar order, in Asia and globally.”

**[sic] (Latin for “just as it was written”)**
One study found “investors value there [sic] money” (Li 2016,76).
Don’t just summarise, synthesise shared ideas!

• Combine multiple sources to develop and strengthen your argument(s)
• Demonstrate that you have read widely on the topic
• Plot the relatedness of information:
  • Identify similar studies and/or contrasting studies
    • Where is there agreement? (Brown argues...Similarly, Smith shows)
    • What are the authors’ different viewpoints? (In contrast, Mahmood contends...)
A sample synthesis

Synthesis of the authors’ shared argument

Economists and behavioural scientists have documented cross-sectional evidence for an approximately U-shaped path of happiness and well-being over the majority of the human lifespan (Warr, 1992; Clark & Oswald, 1994).

Citation that includes respective authors and years
Use words and phrases to make explicit the relationship between your sources

To highlight similarities between your sources:

- 'Similarly, Kooyman (ref), Schedneck (ref) and Do (ref) argue that…'
- 'In line with feminist critical theory (ref; ref; ref), Craswell views…'
- Additionally, furthermore, at the same time etc.

To highlight contrasting ideas:

- 'In contrast, a number of scholars like Silvey (ref) and Brown (ref) caution against…They note…'
- ‘Sociologists (ref; ref;) have taken issue with McCarthy's view that…'
- 'Inconsistencies/disagreements have emerged over…'
- Unlike, contrary to the view that etc.

Useful resource: Manchester University’s academic phrasebank
Summarise and synthesise in the sciences

Face recognition is an important skill that develops rapidly in infancy (Nelson, 2001). There has been much research and debate about the origin and development of face recognition, with some arguing that face recognition is innate while others suggesting that it is experience-expectant. Evidence for the experience-independent view of face recognition suggests that there is an area in the brain that is specialised to process faces (Kanwisher, 2000; Kanwisher, McDermott, & Chun, 1997; Nelson, 2001; Tong, Nakayama Moscovitch, Weinrib, & Kanwisher, 2000), an ability which appears very early in life (Pascali et al., 2005) and can operate without exposure to faces (Sugita, 2008). The experience-expectant theory of face recognition has also gained empirical support, provided by evidence which indicates that early visual experience is essential to the development of face recognition (Le Grand, Mondloch, Maurer, & Brent, 2003). Additionally, other research found phenomena known as the other-race effect (Sangrigoli, Pallier, Argenti, Ventureyra, & de Schonen, 2005) and the other-species effect (Pascalis et al., 2005), which are dependent on experience. While both viewpoints provide compelling evidence for their arguments, face recognition cannot be explained by the theories of nature or nurture in isolation. Rather it appears that face recognition involves an interaction of both nature and nurture for it to successfully develop in infants and to be maintained throughout life.

Sample student work from PSYC1005

**Essay topic:** The complex interaction of the nature and nurture in face recognition

**Example of:** use of sources in an introduction
When it comes to using sources, is it best to aim to write summaries first rather than looking for key quotes and information to paraphrase? Why or why not?

What do you currently do? Why?
Show your critical thinking

Good summaries, paraphrases and syntheses don’t just
  • Pull together (condense and synthesise) the text’s main ideas
  • Show their relevance/connection for your task.

• Importantly, they make it clear to readers where you stand on the specific issues – critically analyse and interpret your sources.
Voice – yours vs. others

Make sure the reader knows when you are summarising, paraphrasing and synthesising source material and when you are interpolating your own comments.

Your argument needs to be clearly distinguished from that of the paper you’re reviewing/integrating.
Tow and Taylor (2010) argue that a security architecture does not currently exist in the Asian region nor elsewhere. For there to be one, it needs to be a unified regionally defined structure that has a comprehensive security agenda.
Tow and Taylor (2010) argue that a security architecture does not currently exist in the Asian region, nor elsewhere. They insist that for there to be one, it needs to be a unified regionally defined structure that has a ‘comprehensive’ security agenda (Tow & Taylor 2010, p. 96). This aspect of their argument is problematic as it assumes that an entire region can have a singular set of ‘policy concerns’ or ‘security objectives’ (p. 96, emphasis in original). This is not the case in East Asia, where security concerns and objectives are highly contested and yet...
How can you develop your stance and voice?
Writer stance and voice

Stance - how you convey your analysis, judgments and views

Voice - how you distinguish your ideas from others’, and develop a sense of ‘self’

Your choice of words, phrases and how you put them together creates your voice and stance
Use your stance and voice

Decide what point you wish to make about the text

Make your argument clear

• Can the reader easily identify when you are paraphrasing and when you are making your own comments?
• Use verbs and adjectives to show your analysis (positive or negative)
• Use language to express your stance
Another example of clear stance and voice

The compliant agency perspective has been criticized for defining agency too broadly (Burke 2012; Lazreg 2013), with some scholars arguing that agency should be defined as acting against domination (Moghissi 2011). In my view, Mahmood’s work has helped social scientists to see that agency may include different capacities for action, including not aimed at liberation. However, this conception of pious agency as compliant or docile has its limits…’

Adjectives, verbs, **adverbs** and nouns

“Evans’ rigorous approach highlights the **limitations**…”

“To remedy this **drawback**, preprogramming of…”

“This is **further** supported by the **observation** that

“Edson et al. (1993) **showed** that…”

“Baumgartner and Bagozzi (1995) **strongly recommend** the use of…”

“The **thorough** research by Preston et al. (2018) and Carr (2016) **illustrates**…”

“Although West’s (2017) **speculative** proposition has its **merits**…”

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Contrasting or qualifying ideas

• “Franklin’s position, however, contrasts with...”
• “There is good reason, however, to question the results of Franklin’s study.”
• “Although there is much to learn from Franklin’s analysis, it is important to acknowledge...”

See our resources on ‘Style and authorial voice’.
More of these examples are also on the academic phrase bank: http://www.kfs.edu.eg/com/pdf/2082015294739.pdf
Remember

• Summarise relevant material for completing your task
• Keep the bigger picture in mind when paraphrasing. Ask yourself: where does this idea fit within the author’s overall argument?
• Synthesise shared ideas
• Quote only if really needed
• Critically analyse and interpret sources
• Always provide a reference