

INCORPORATING SOURCES

**Do you ever find yourself wondering how to strengthen your argument in an essay?
Or do you want to present readers with a broader perspective than what you know?
If so, you want to include a source that provides an "expert" opinion in your paper.**

When incorporating sources, you strengthen your own position by connecting to what others have to say in agreement with you, or by pointing out the problems in opposing views.

To smoothly incorporate a source ~ whether you paraphrase or quote directly from the source ~

Follow these tips:

- Introduce a quote or paraphrase by using the source's name in combination with a signal word: this alerts readers that you are incorporating a source to strengthen your point.
- Sample signal words:

illustrates	explains	supports
asserts	suggests	responds
stresses	reports	believes
- End the sentence with and in text citation that identifies the source and the page number where the information can be found.
- Once you have incorporated the source, follow it up with an explanation of why it is important or how it connects to your argument.

In text citation identifies source + page number

Source name + Signal word introduces quote

Example:

Another problem with ADHD is that psychiatrists have no validated test that proves it can be considered a disorder. Dr. Fred A. Baughman reports that "[W]e do not have an independent, valid test for ADHA (Whittle and Stout 5a). Since there is no test that proves ADHD is a legitimate disorder, why do 7-8 million school children in the U.S. alone take a psychiatric drug like Ritalin to treat it? With no valid test and no proven disorder, it just does not make sense to have all these children on drugs.

- Notice in the example that the source acts as a **BRIDGE**:
 - It provides proof for the writer's point that psychiatrists have no valid tests to identify ADHD as a disorder.
 - It provides a connection to the writer's next point: that it doesn't make sense to prescribe drugs to children with a "disorder" that cannot be validly diagnosed.
 - It offers support and allows the writer to stay in charge of the essay's argument rather than just report on what sources have to say.
 - It is the writer's responsibility to explain why source information is important or to connect it to your own ideas.
- Incorporating sources smoothly with signal words and bridge connections v. simply "plugging" a quotation in the middle of a paragraph is how you build an argument or position.