APA Signal Phrases for Quotes/Paraphrases

Signal phrases mark the boundaries between source material and your own words: who said what. They provide context for the reader.

Signal phrases in APA (for Direct Quotes and Paraphrases) always include:
- author’s last name
- publication date in parentheses
  - Roman (2005) reported that “social factors are…"
  - According to Lahore and Smith (2011), “a similar result…"
  - As Inoue (2007) has noted, “the…"

They also usually include:
- a specific verb in the past tense or present perfect tense (see the Verb Charts on reverse)
  - Stedman et al. (2002) argued for… by emphasizing that “…"
  - Stedman et al. (2002) has argued for… by emphasizing that “…"

✔ APA in-text citation tip: Page Numbers for Direct Quotes
Remainder to include the page number in parentheses right after every direct quote.
  - Brocker et al. (2007) have suggested “…” (pp. 131-132).

You can also include your own thoughts and analysis in the same sentence, after the page #:
  - Suzuki, Reed, and Sharp (1999) proposed that “…” (p. 72), but recent data seems to contradict this hypothesis.

Avoid “dropping” direct quotations without warning.
Dropped quote:
  - But the results of the experiment did not have long-lasting positive changes. “The effect disappeared within minutes” (Lopez, 1993, p. 311).

Improved with a Signal Phrase and clarifying commentary:
  - Lopez (1993) found that “the effect disappeared within minutes” (p. 311), which raises questions about the implications of the study’s findings for a wider demographic.

Paraphrases or summaries (in your own words) do not always require a Signal Phrase, as long as it’s clear whose words are whose from the context or previous sentence.

This is fine:
  - Yanovski and Yanovski (2002) explained that sibutramine suppresses appetite by blocking the reuptake of the neurotransmitters serotonin in the brain (p. 594).

This is fine, too, as long as it’s already clear whose ideas you’re describing:
  - Sibutramine suppresses appetite by blocking the reuptake of the neurotransmitters serotonin in the brain (Yanovski & Yanovski, 2002, p. 594).

Tip: You can also summarize and cite multiple sources within the same sentence:
  - Several studies have identified a positive correlation between meditation and stress reduction (Berkowitz et al., 2003; Derryberry & Reed, 2005, 2007; Rothbart, 2003).

✔ APA in-text citation tip: Page Numbers for Paraphrases (in your own words)
For paraphrases/summaries (not direct quotes), you don’t always need a page number.
## APA Signal Phrases for Quotes/Paraphrases

**Verbs to give readers more context for your Quote or Paraphrase**

| Verbs to introduce a fact/statement: stated, wrote, said, mentioned, added, noted, commented, pointed out, found, observed, discussed, reported, expressed, considered, explored, illustrated | Verbs to introduce views the author agrees with: endorsed, confirmed, agreed, supported, echoed, affirmed |
| Verbs to introduce what the author focuses on or excludes: emphasized, stressed, focused on, highlighted, overlooked, ignored, downplayed, omitted, excluded | Verbs to introduce views the author disagrees with: refuted, denied, contradicted, critiqued, rejected, called into question, disputed, challenged, negated |
| Verbs to introduce a claim: claimed, argued, posited, reasoned, asserted, proposed | Verbs to introduce the author’s qualified agreement: acknowledged, admitted, granted, conceded |

**Phrases to place the author’s work in the larger academic conversation:**

--- is credited with …
--- promoted/conceived the idea that …
--- has written extensively about …

**Use longer phrases to signal your view of a quote/paraphrase:**

- **Longer Phrases to show that you agree with an author’s claims:**

| Warren offered/said | a useful/timely/thorough/important … |
| Warren’s interpretation analysis/argument conclusion/proposal | is incisive/cogent/persuasive/effective because … |

- **Longer Phrases to show that you disagree with an author’s claims:**

| Warren ignores/overlooks … | acknowledge/address/consider … |
| Warren’s fails to makes no attempt to | distinguish between … |
| Warren’s interpretation analysis/argument conclusion/proposal | overlooks the deeper problem … |

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