

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

Remember to include the page number in parentheses right after every direct quote.

- Broeker 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 ...	A recent article/study by --- contrasted/compared ... --- has written extensively about ...
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Use longer phrases to signal your view of a quote/paraphrase:

o Longer Phrases to show that you agree with an author's claims:

Warren The article	offered presented	a useful/timely/thorough/important ... an effective counterargument/interpretation ... ample evidence of ...
Warren's	interpretation analysis/argument conclusion/proposal	is incisive/cogent/persuasive/effective because ... is relevant to/has significant practical applications for ... effectively proves/integrates/challenges/explains...

o Longer Phrases to show that you disagree with an author's claims:

Warren	ignores/overlooks ... oversimplifies/downplays ... incorrectly assumes ...	
Warren The study The article	fails to makes no attempt to	acknowledge/address/consider ... distinguish between ... provide evidence for ...
Warren's	interpretation analysis/argument conclusion/proposal	overlooks the deeper problem ... incorrectly assumes that ... rests upon the questionable claim/assumption ...