

[MUSIC PLAYING]

INSTRUCTOR: Working with sources using MLA Style.

Academic writing involves working with sources. Writers borrow ideas and words from other's articles, books, websites, interviews, and so on. To integrate sources writers build-up, borrow, and follow-up.

In the MLA Style build-up a writer signals another's ideas by naming the author. When borrowing writers may choose to directly quote, paraphrase, or summarize. Each option requires documentation. In the follow-up writers must explain how the borrowed ideas and words connect to their own.

Writers build-up to borrowed ideas and words by starting with their own. Then they introduce sources by using signal phrases or tags, such as "according to" and "the author states." Consider the following paragraph that analyzes Wendy Kaminer's "The War on High Schools," from the online journal *The American Prospect*.

The first two sentences of this paragraph lead with the writer's ideas about how Kaminer's use of emotional appeals affect the overall point of her article. These topic sentences tell readers what the paragraph is about. The build-up also includes the signals for the words and ideas borrowed from Kaminer's article. The phrases "she begins by explaining" and "Kaminer states" let readers know that the next set of words and ideas are originally Kaminer's.

When borrowing from a source writers have two options borrow ideas or borrow exact words. When borrowing ideas writers use paraphrases and summaries to express in their own words the source's main points. When borrowing exact words writers add the source's voice to their own. Each strategy uses citation. But only direct quotation requires special punctuation.

Let's look back at the paragraph about Kaminer's article. The writer begins by describing the original article in general. Her third sentence paraphrases

paragraphs two and three of the article. Notice that this sentence does not include quotation marks, nor does it include citation information. Because in MLA Style web sources with no page numbers are not cited in the text.

Then the writer borrows Kaminer's exact words because they illustrate how the writer achieves sympathy. Notice how the comma comes before the opening quotation mark. Because it is an unpaginated web source this quotation-- like the earlier paraphrase-- does not end with a parenthetical citation. In MLA Style the author's name plus the bibliographic citation at the end of the paper is sufficient. By combining paraphrase and quotation the writer analyzes several paragraphs of the original article in just a few sentences.

Whether or not borrowed material is in the form of a direct quotation a work cited entry is required at the end of the document. This entry includes the author's name, the title of the short work, the title of the periodical, the date, the source information, and the access date.

Borrowed ideas and words can't stand alone. Readers may not understand the connection between the source and your own main ideas. Or they might interpret the source differently.

Let's look back at the paragraph about Kaminer's article. To follow up on the quote the writer emphasizes that the borrowed words create sympathy. The final sentence transitions to a new topic, which was introduced at the beginning of the paragraph. This sentence invites a new build-up to borrowed ideas and words that explain what parts of Kaminer's article show anger.

Remember using sources in your writing requires that you build-up, cite, and follow-up on the ideas and words you borrow.