



Hello! And You Are...?

Identifying and Introducing Sources

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Most of your writing endeavors here at BGSU will require you to weave information from outside sources with your own arguments and/or ideas. Therefore, you should know how to best incorporate such sources into what you're writing. For example, when using a source for the first time in an essay, a brief introduction (of the text and author) is necessary to acquaint your readers with the information and its credibility. Also, it helps to place all borrowed words and ideas into a frame which can precede, follow, or interrupt the words/ideas; parenthetical citations alone are not adequate source introductions! On this handout you'll find examples of such framing devices, along with other guidelines to help you properly introduce and identify the sources you use within your essays.

Examples of framing devices

- Andrea Smith, editor-in-chief of Newsweek magazine, emphasizes that "....." (46).
- "Liberty, as a principle," Mill contends in *Liberty and Individuality*, "has no application to any state of things anterior to the time when mankind have become capable of being improved by free and equal discussion" (100).
- "I will not eat green eggs and ham. I will not eat them, Sam-I-am" Dr. Suess exclaims in his famous children's book, *Green Eggs and Ham*.

Additional guidelines to follow

- The very first time you use an outside source within your essay, introduce and identify it in your text (using a framing device); don't rely solely on a parenthetical citation. Your readers deserve to be familiar with the credentials/experience of your sources so they can better understand and support your papers' ideas.
- Subsequent citations may be done parenthetically, unless they are direct quotations, in which case framing devices should be employed (for the purpose of 'setting up' the quote).
- If you introduce a source with the words 'says' or 'states,' you should follow with a direct quotation (that's what your reader will be expecting). If you are simply paraphrasing or summarizing a source, words like 'believes,' 'asserts,' and 'maintains' are appropriate. The phrase 'according to' can be used with either direct quotations, paraphrases, or

summaries.

- The first time you refer to a source within your essay, include the author's full name, complete with any titles such as 'Dr.'; for subsequent references you may use only the last name (but not the first name...this is considered too informal for academic writing).
- If you need to cite a study, be sure to include the following: who conducted it; when it was conducted; how it was conducted; and what population made up the participants. Be sure to provide sources for all statistics