

# Using Information

How to incorporate resources into your writing

## Quoting

Quoting directly from a source should be done sparingly. Writers typically quote from a text when using statistical data, providing textual evidence from a poem or literature, or providing a unique definition.

- **Example:** The University of Maine at Augusta's mission statement is to "transform the lives of students of every age and background across the state of Maine and beyond through access to high-quality distance and on-site education, excellent student support and civic engagement, and innovative professional and liberal arts programs."
- **Example Two:** In "The Unbeginning" the poem is true to form. The very first line of the poem, "-- or, maybe you could just give up on beginnings. After all," does in fact seem to not begin the poem so much as continue it from some other thought (Hillman 34).

## Paraphrasing

To paraphrase means to explain someone else's work in your own words while still giving credit to the author for their thoughts. Paraphrasing is often more desired than quoting because it shows you understand the topic and the research you have done.

- **Example One:** In her New York Times article on rewilding her garden, Margaret Renkl argues that while many people think environmentalism takes great effort, it can be easy to make just a small difference. One example she provides is to put a milkweed plant out on your balcony to attract butterflies.
- **Example Two:** Octavia Butler's work is part of a history of political commentary existing within the science fiction genre, however, in her novels Butler creates political agency specifically for Black women (Hampton 72).

## Summarizing

A summary is typically used to give the reader a general overview or history of your topic. You may end up citing a few different authors when writing a summary. Note: a summary is different from an analysis. A summary will simply summarize the contents of a text, an analysis is your thoughts, opinions, and ideas of that text.

- **Example One:** In Charlotte Perkins Gilman's novel, *The Yellow Wallpaper*, the main character is a woman whose husband locks her into a room as a way of "treating" her postpartum depression. The story is told through the woman's journal entries. As the woman's imprisonment continues, she comes to believe that there is a figure emerging from the peeling yellow wallpaper in the room - a woman who must be freed from the wallpaper.
- **Example Two:** It has been established that climate change will affect ecosystems in Maine in several ways (DeUrioste-Stone et al., 2016; Lesser, 2016; Elias, 2019; Kim et al., 2021).

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## Need Help?

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