

When using research in your writing, you do not need to give credit to all the research that you use. In particular, don't credit information that is agreed-upon fact about your topic. If you were to do so, you would have to give credit to each and every source that, for example, says that the HPV vaccine (Gardasil) should not be administered to pregnant women. Can you imagine how cumbersome it would be for readers to read "According to Brian Smythe, director of disease resistant research at the University of Pennsylvania, the June 2016 issue of *Consumer Health*, and the *Gardasil 9* web site, pregnant women should not have the HPV vaccine."?

On the other hand, each time you incorporate unique, out-of-the-ordinary, or relatively unknown information into your writing, you should introduce or signal to your reader that you are using research. That way, you'll be able to give credit where credit is due – to your research! In addition, you won't be held accountable for the accuracy of that piece of research; the source that you've mentioned in the signal phrase bears the responsibility for the information's accuracy.

Here are some examples of signal phrases that can be used to introduce quotations, paraphrases, and summaries:

- Researchers at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, studied sleep deprived mice and discovered that . . . .
- A study reported in *The Journal of the American Dental Association* proves that chewing tobacco. . . .
- Mou Vang, the head of the Ohio State Justice Department, voiced his opinion of teens and sexting: . . . .
- According to sports physiologist Terry Burman, there are three groups of athletes: . . . .
- When talking about the "rush" from mosh pits, one mosher, who was interviewed for a 2013 *Time* article, said, . . . .

The list below identifies some common words that can be used as part of the signal phrase or sentence:

according to	explained	stated	argued	observed
claimed	reported	confirmed	was proven by	admitted
verified	pointed out	highlighted	demonstrated	asserted
noted	agreed	concurred	endorsed	refuted
suggested	determined	found that	contended	declared
emphasized	verified	discovered		

As writers, we are accustomed to putting the signal phrase before the piece of research, but the signal phrase can also appear in the middle or end of the piece of research, as shown with the yellow highlighted examples below:

<b>ORIGINAL PASSAGE:</b> Camille Paglia, a professor of humanities at the University of Arts in Philadelphia, said, “These beauty pageants for children mark a deep sexual disturbance in society, a cannibalizing of youth by these vampiric adults.”
<b>SIGNAL AT THE BEGINNING:</b> A humanities professor at a Philadelphia arts college, Camille Paglia, believes: “These beauty pageants for children mark a deep sexual disturbance in society, a cannibalizing of youth by these vampiric adults.”
<b>SIGNAL IN THE MIDDLE:</b> “These beauty pageants for children,” says a Philadelphia humanities professor, Camille Paglia, “mark a deep sexual disturbance in society, a cannibalizing of youth by these vampiric adults.”
<b>SIGNAL AT THE END:</b> “These beauty pageants for children mark a deep sexual disturbance in society, a cannibalizing of youth by these vampiric adults,” contends Camille Paglia, a Philadelphia University of Arts professor.

Not only does the above chart show that the signal phrase can be moved around, but it also shows that when writing the signal phrase, plagiarism is to be avoided. While it would be tempting to copy the phrasing highlighted in green, it is not necessary. Besides, it would be considered plagiarism! Notice that the signal phrase was tweaked in each of the three sample passages (highlighted in yellow). These signal phrases are free of plagiarism.

Note also that the signal phrase is kept brief. There is no need to be long-winded and present a lot or even all the bibliographical information for a source. That information will appear on the works cited page anyhow. In the signal phrase, just provide enough detail so that your readers know that your research is from a credible and/or up-to-date source. In many cases, you will give the name of an expert and his/her qualifications OR the name of a web site or publication along with the year.

Also for the sake of brevity, if you were to use research from the same expert or author more than once, you do not need to repeat the full name and qualifications each time. Just use the last name of the author or expert the second and additional times you use information from him/her. See the example below.

**In Paragraph 2:** Career counselor Wilma Fellman explains the need to consider the ADDer’s strengths first and then the weaknesses to best evaluate career possibilities.

**In Paragraph 4:** No matter the career, ADDer’s must recognize the importance of deadlines and “aim for the bull’s eye” while working, Fellman noted.

However, you may want to repeat the signal phrase if your paraphrase is a long one. Note the blue highlighting of repeated signal phrases in the passage below.

The head of a rehabilitation program in Los Angeles, Stuart Silverman, points out that fibromyalgia pain is unpredictable and spreads throughout the body whereas arthritic pain is generalized to the affected body part. In addition, fibromyalgia patients have up to a two-day delayed reaction to the pain, but arthritis patients suffer pain up to two hours after the activity, Silverman notes. Finally, according to Silverman, fibromyalgia patients suffer more fatigue than arthritis patients.

Overall, keep in mind that a signal phrase by itself is not enough to credit your source and avoid plagiarism. You still must quote, paraphrase, or summarize correctly and accurately, credit your sources by using in-text citations, and create a works cited.

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