



Library Essentials

Some Ways to Use Sources

<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/libraryessentials>



Librarians

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Below are some common ways you can use sources.

1. Conversing

Sources can show the evolution of an idea and the dialogue occurring to move the idea forward. This is most evident when we show how sources relate to each other AND our research.

- As X put it _____. I believe _____.
- X's accuses _____. But we see _____.
- The earlier work of _____ is reflected in this study approaching _____.

2. Counter (Perspective)

Showing sources who express views counter to your topic develops a more rounded paper. How do these alternative perspectives disagree with each other? Did they influence your stance? Or do you maintain your position? Why?

- The weakness of X's argument can be seen in _____.
- X has defended Y and challenged my explanation on _____.
- Because A, like many other reports, was crafted to support a particular policy agenda. In this case, the recommendations _____ the following argument: _____.

3. IBID. Using the Same Source More than Once in the Same Paper

The use of 'IBID.' in academic writing refers to sources previously cited. All bibliographic data has already been given.\

- X (1111:lvviv) urges those who "_____" to "_____" (ibid: lvvv).

4. Introducing

A source can be used to introduce a new direction in topic. Or to introduce an authoritative voice in the field. Always explain why the source is significant.

- According to X _____. This shows _____.
- X additionally noted that _____. This is significant because _____.
- I agree with X's evaluation of _____. As X says _____.

5. Summarizing

Effective use of sources does not always mean direct quotes. Sometimes the most effective use of a source is summarising the information. Saying in your own words the general idea of a source and how this perspective applies to your research.

- As X has shown _____.
- X's review concludes _____. The studies showed _____.
- In the recent book A, author X examines _____.
- X also highlights _____.

6. Supporting Facts

Sources function as credible authorities that substantiate points made. How has your perspective been endorsed, justified, or proven by voices in the field? Showing the validity of your stance with credible sources is one way to show this.

- Z do not deny that _____. X has made this point: _____.
- To prove his point _____, X argues that _____.
- To assert as X does, _____ is to _____.