

Academic Phrase Bank

There are numerous ways you can introduce a quote. Below, you will find common ways we introduce sources. Note that this document first shows MLA examples and then shows APA examples. If a citation on this document is not labeled, then it is in MLA Style.

Using a Signal Phrase In MLA and APA

*For MLA, include the author's name and page either in the signal phrase or at the end of the citation.

According to Brown, "... (17).

From Brown's (2019) perspective, "... (p. 17).

*For APA, include the author's name, date, and page number. In APA, the year always goes immediately after the author's name.

Including author information at the end of the parenthetical citation

"..." (Brown 17).

*For MLA, include the author's name and page in the parenthetical citation.

"..." (Brown, 2019, p. 17).

*For APA, include the author's name, date, and page number.

To begin a signal phrase, use the author's name, a descriptive word, and a comma.

Brown says, "...

*Note that not all descriptive words are interchangeable. Find the term that best suits your needs.

APA

Brown (2019)
says, "...

states, "...

explains, "...

writes, "...

argues, "...

reports, "...

comments, "...

describes, "...

observes, "...

clarifies, "...

affirms, "...

notes, "...

persuades, "...

demands, "...

commends, "...

pushes, "...

adds, "...

A few more examples:

contends, "...

articulates, "...

intones, "...

posits, "...

points out, "...

marks, "...

emphasizes, "...

interprets, "...

denotes, "...

confirms, "...

upholds, "...

maintains, "...

APA Brown (2019) asserts that “it’s

If your phrase before the quotation ends in that or as, then don’t use a comma. *APA* it” (p. 5).

Brown asserts that “it’s not about how much money you have, but how wisely you spend it” (5).

Brown believes that education is as important as “good hygiene” (21). *APA* hygiene” (p. 21).

APA Brown (2019) believes that

A side note...

There are a few ways to introduce a source. For MLA, it is considered good form to introduce the source fully the first time, and then refer to the source using the author’s name for every other instance. See the example below:

First Quote: *APA* Marcus Brown (2019), a

Marcus Brown, a leading economic analyst at Cambridge University, explains in his article “Money Well Spent” that “it’s not about how much money you have, but how wisely you spend it” (6). *APA* it” (p. 6).

Second Quote: *APA* Brown (2019) adds, “The

Brown adds, “The importance of a diverse stock portfolio is paramount to maximizing your yearly returns” (7). *APA* (p. 7).

Or

“The importance of a diverse stock portfolio is paramount to maximizing your yearly returns” (Brown 7). *APA* (Brown, 2019, p. 7).

Block Quotes

If the quote is over three lines long, then block quote it; write a signal phrase that is a complete sentence before the quote and indent each line of the quote. Take the quotation marks off

Marcus Brown discusses the importance of investments in “Money Well Spent:”

APA
Marcus
Brown (2019)
discusses

When it comes down to it, it’s not about how much money you have, but how wisely you spend it. You can save and save with little progress because you can only earn so much from a job. It is important to learn how to make it, so your money makes money through a series of smart business expenditures (5). *APA* (p. 5).

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